



# ECHO IRELAND

## Journal of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society January/March 2008

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### SEARG Committee 2008



Standing: Treasurer Michael EI4DCB, Nicky EI3JB, John EI7IG, Francis EI5GOB  
Seated L to R: Secretary Mark EI7IS, IRTS President Finbarr EI1CS, Chairman  
John EI8JA, Declan EI5GRB (Not in photo - Eddie Steadman EI9DJB)

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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do  
not necessarily represent the views of  
the Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next issue  
April 30th**

**April 4th 2008  
Church Island Radio Rally  
Bellaghy, Co.Derry  
2000 - 2200**

**Sunday 13th April 2008  
Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club  
Annual Rally  
The Share Centre, Lisnaskea  
County Fermanagh**

**April 26/27th 2008  
IRTS AGM Weekend  
Salthill Hotel, Salthill, Galway**

**Sunday June 15th 2008  
Bangor and District ARS  
Radio and Computer Rally  
Crawfordsburn Country Club  
Bangor, Co. Down**

**Sunday 2nd November 2008  
Foyle & District ARC  
Annual Rally  
The White Horse Hotel  
Campsie, Derry**

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### News Bulletins and Readers

<b>Sunday</b>			
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB (as Gaeilge)
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM
<b>Monday</b>			
Cork	2000	145.750	FM
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM
Louth	2000	145.675	
Galway	2000	145.625	
<b>Tuesday</b>			
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM

Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC  
Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS  
As 1100  
Tommy EI7IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF  
As 1145

Con EI7DJB, Vincent EI7HN  
Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW  
Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD  
Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC

Gareth EI7FZB, Robbie EI8FZB

## Echo Ireland Production

The Society wishes to apologise for the late delivery of this edition of Echo Ireland.

Long time editor EI4BZ has been indisposed over the past few months and we are in the process of re-organising the production process.

We are actively seeking volunteers to get involved on a regular basis and if you feel you can contribute, please contact the President Finbarr EI1CS on 021-4346622 or by email to *buckleyf1@eircom.net*

## Wanted

The Society is currently seeking volunteers for the following jobs:

- **Volunteers for Echo Ireland**
- **HF Newsreaders**
- **2m Newsreaders in the Dublin area.**

If you would like to get involved in the society's work, please contact any committee member

## IRTS Committee

### Next Meeting

**March 29th 2008**  
**Comfort Inn Hotel,**  
**Portlaoise**  
**1100**

## Trophy Returns

All recipients of trophies at the 2007 AGM are earnestly requested to ensure that they are returned to Peter Grant EI4HX immediately. Please hand them to any committee member or post them to:

Peter Grant EI4HX,  
37 Glenmore Park  
Dundalk  
Co Louth

## Silent Key - John Moran EI8DL. 1950-2008

John's interest in Radio began when he joined the Army in 1968. He moved to the Signal Corp where he first learned about "Ham" Radio. John used to operate from the Club station EI7AJ in Connolly Barracks, Longford and gained his own callsign EI8DL in January of 1979.

John Lived in Longford Town from 1973 until 1989. Having left the Army in 1989 he moved to London and lived there from 1989 to 1995. Whilst in UK his call sign was G0MYI.

John then moved back to his home town of Carrick-on-Shannon in County Leitrim.

He was active on HF, VHF including Satellite and used the packet radio mode as well as PSK.

His favourite mode however remained Morse code (CW).

I first met John about 8 years ago and as I had to pass by his QTH on a fairly regular basis I used to call in for a mug of tea and a chat.

This led to a friendship which grew steadily over the years. I have several things to thank John for. He introduced me to and helped me with my first packet station. This in turn got me the DX Cluster which has helped me no end.

He gave me abundant advice on antennas and radios. I followed his example by buying the same rig he used; if it was good enough for John it was good enough for me!

I remember on that fateful day of 9-11 John and I watched the events unfold together.

When John moved home to Carrick he was overjoyed with his new house and myself and Fergus EI6IB got a wire antenna sorted for him. He was delighted with his lot.

Unfortunately this was short lived as two and a half years ago he was diagnosed with cancer. He had regular treatment, but he never once let him get him down. His strength of will, character and general good humour carried him through.

In this time the radio also came more into play as it gave him something to concentrate on and his QSO count increased rapidly.



He spent a lot of time on PSK but as I said his love was CW. He could be talking to me and be in the middle of a CW QSO at the same time, he was a natural.

During this time his first grandson was born and to see the joy and pride in his face would do you good.

He was interested in history especially Irish as both his father and grandfather were in the army. He had several shelves lined with history books and the history channel was always being recorded.

He was also a genius on computers and lost valuable radio time helping myself and other club members sort out the usual problems such as RF feedback, setting up digi modes etc.

We travelled together to the Coolmine rally every year and we would make a day of it. Sadly this year was not to be as John's condition worsened after Christmas and he sadly passed away on Sunday February 17th.

He attended IRTS committee meetings for a while and acted as Regional Representative for the northwest. Unfortunately his deteriorating health did not allow him continue in that role.

I called to see him four days before he died and once again we ended up in his shack where he answered an e-mail for a PSK sked request. He replied with "can't do it at the moment but look forward to my next mail shortly" That sked sadly now will not happen.

It is not easy to write about a dear friend and do him justice and I hope that these words go some way towards it.

The radio community has lost a true stalwart of the hobby and he will be missed by all of us, family and his many friends. All our thoughts and sympathies are with his family at this sad time.

May he rest in peace, sk.

*Brian EI8IU*

### Bereavement

The experimenter community throughout the country will be sorry to hear of the death of Noeleen O'Reilly the mother of Derek O'Reilly of ComReg.

Mrs O'Reilly died on Tuesday February 5th.

The IRTS was represented at the removal by Sean Donelan EI4GK and Sean Nolan EI7CD.

To Derek and to his family we extend our sincerest sympathy.

### PJ Coyle EI4AYB Silent Key

We are sad to report on the death of P.J. Coyle EI4AYB on November 27th 2007 in Salthill, Co. Galway.

While PJ was not active in recent years, he was planning a return to the airwaves in his retirement from the Department of Agriculture.

Our deepest sympathy to his wife Margaret and family.

May he rest in peace.

### Theory Examination

Fifteen candidates from different areas throughout the country sat the most recent Theory Examination for the Experimenter's licence which was held on Wednesday February 6th at the ComReg Offices in Dublin. We hope for a successful outcome for them.

This brings to 126 the total number of candidates that have sat the six examinations that have been held since the IRTS took over responsibility for the theory examination just under three years ago.

## Bernard Gough. (EI-503) 1915-2008

The death has taken place of Bernard Gough EI-503 in his 93<sup>rd</sup> year.

Bernard passed away on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2008 in Bourmount Hospital.

A skilled french polisher and cabinet maker by trade there was nothing he could not do with a piece of wood.

Bernard also restored many of the fine pieces of furniture in Ardgillan Castle.

His workmanship can be seen on display to this day.

The last 50 years of his life he worked in Clancys Electrical store in Skerries where you could get anything from an needle to an anchor.

A keen short wave listener and CB'er for many a year, he was one of the founder members of the Skerries Radio Club EI2NCR and despite his advancing years he would not miss the Tuesday night meetings of his club.

When the club had a field day Bernie would be there with one of his fruit baskets. Not a man to be stuck in the past he had the latest scanners and Kenwood radios, and attended a computer course so he could go on line to surf the web and e-mail.

He had a varied life. He was a member of the LDF during the emergency aka world war two and one of his duties was to patrol the coast between Skerries and Balbriggan.

He was also a co-founder of the Skerries Community Centre in 1981.

And was also a life long member of the boy scouts of Ireland. He was an early member of the 98<sup>th</sup> Saint Patrick's unit, and was presented with a service medal last year in honour of the fact that he was one of the oldest living boy scouts in Ireland. He was a very social man and would have the kettle on if you called to visit him and he would not be shy in ringing you to let you know that your visit was overdue.

His funeral took place on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of February. A guard of honour by his fellow club members accompanied the hearse to the church where members of the 98<sup>th</sup> Saint Patrick's unit where there to greet Bernard. After the service his fellow club members continued the guard of honour to his final resting place.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his niece Ellen and her family  
We will miss you Bernie 73s and 51s and keep a space for us.

From all at Skerries Radio Club.



## IRTS AGM Weekend

This year, Galway Radio Experimenters Club have taken the job of hosting the IRTS AGM over the weekend of April 26/27th.

They have selected an excellent venue in the Salthill Hotel, practically on the famous promenade in Salthill, Co. Galway. The weekend follows the usual format with the annual dinner on the Saturday night, with the rally and AGM on Sunday.

Your support for the dinner is important and we look forward to seeing a big attendance. Its been quite a few years since we all met in Galway for this event.

There are several trophies available for service to the society or the hobby and we ask that you look around and see if you know someone that deserves recognition for what they are doing in the hobby. Drop a note to Peter Grant EI4HX QTHR.

Do please attend the AGM and if you have anything to say, good or bad, that is the place to say it!

## Construction Trophies at the IRTS AGM

At last year's AGM, it was disappointing that there was only one entry for the Professor Folan Shield and the Kevin Freaney trophy.

These two trophies are awarded for construction of amateur radio equipment. Tony, EI5EM, in accepting the awards, addressed the meeting and expressed his own disappointment at the lack of competition.

He said that there must be many experimenters out there constructing equipment but who do not consider submitting them.

With the IRTS AGM fast approaching, now is the time to consider submitting an entry.

You do not need to have designed and built a multiband DSP transceiver to enter. If you have built a kit, an SWR meter, a mobile antenna or other piece of equipment, why not submit your project and show that the art of building isn't dead and that EIs are not just a bunch of radio operators.

After all, our licenses designates us experimenters. So where are the results of these experiments?

Hopefully some of them will appear at the AGM in April.

## 3DA0EI WPX Results - AFRI75

The results of the 2007 SSB CQWPX Contest show that the IRTS AFRI75 DXpedition to Swaziland using the call 3DA0EI made a score of 8.5 million points which put them in second place in the Multi 2 category.

The 8.5 million points were achieved with 3,031 QSO's and 897 unique prefixes.

Competition came in the form of AN8A and being much closer to Europe they had the usual advantage that brings. ZS9X, a more comparable form of competition, chose to enter as a multi single and 7.6 million points and 5th in their category were their results.



## **HST2008**

ARI ( Italian Radioamateur Association) is glad to announce that from April 23<sup>rd</sup> to April 26<sup>th</sup> 2008 the 6<sup>th</sup> International Hight Speed Telegraphy Campionship HST2008 (High Speed Telegraphy) will take place in Pordenone (Italy) during the 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of Radioamateur Fair, the largest radio rally in Europe. There will be more than 250 exhibitors and about 35.000 visitors.

The competition is going to have Morse code receiving and transmitting tests accordoing the rules as published on [www.hst2008.org](http://www.hst2008.org). Many international teams are going to be engaged on the games. The entry forms are available on the event web site: ([www.hst2008.org](http://www.hst2008.org)). The games will follow this plan:  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Competitors' arrival, registration, opening ceremony;  
24<sup>th</sup> – Games opening;  
25<sup>th</sup> – Conclusion of the games;  
26<sup>th</sup> – Boat-trip to Venice, dinner and award ceremony

The organization committee hopes to welcome a large number of participants from different countries to keep alive the interest in telegraphy.

### **AGM Accommodation**

Rooms have been reserved at the Salthill Hotel in the name of Galway Radio Experimenters Club.

Please mention the club when booking to avail of the discount.

Double rooms cost €75.00 per person while singles are €85.00

**The hotel telephone number is:**  
**091-522711/522448**

## **Irish Radio Transmitters Society 75th Annual General Meeting April 27th 2008 Salthill Hotel, Salthill, Galway**

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at 1430 on Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Salthill Hotel, Salthill, Galway.

Rule 23.1 requires that the committee shall, at least 28 days notice prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid up members a list showing the nominees for the offices of President and Vice-President and eleven committee positions.

The following are the Committee's nominations;

President		Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS	
Vice-President		Paul Martin EI2CA	
<b>Committee</b>		EI7GY	Joe Ryan
EI2JD	Thos Caffrey	EI7IG	John Ronan
EI4GK	Sean Donelan	EI8BP	Seamus McCague
EI4GXB	Ger McNamara	EI8CC	Ger Gervin
EI6IZ	Brendan Minish	EI8JA	John McCarthy
EI6JK	Mark Condon	EI9HX	Pat O'Connor

The names of other members eligible and willing to serve as President, Vice-President or as Committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, or by any two paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven committee positions. (Rule 23.2)

See Page 26 of the current Year Book for all the rules relating to elections.

## ***IRTS AGM Weekend Salthill Hotel, Salthill Galway***

***Hosted by Galway Radio Experimenters Club***

***Saturday 26th April 2008 at 8.30 p.m.***

***Annual Dinner***

***Tickets €35.00***

***Sunday 27th April 2008.***

***Rally opening at 1100***

***Annual General Meeting at 1430.***

***Enquiries to:***

***Tom Frawley EI3ER      086 8224170***  
***Damian Commins EI2HG      086 8316382***



# HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Welcome to another edition of 'HF Happenings' and this of course being the first one in 2008 so belated 'New Year's greetings to you all.

## 2007 - A Great Year

2007 was an eventful year, what with having several major DXpeditions, numerous special event stations and of course the usual various annual contests, all of which seem to be getting bigger and better year after year.

This special edition will highlight the major happenings and events that took place during 2007.

2007 started off with a nice introduction to the new year with an operation from the then rare 'S.M.O.M' (Sovereign Military Order of Malta).

This operation began on midnight January 1<sup>st</sup> and ran until the 8<sup>th</sup>. This mainly all Italian team were signing 1A4A (One aid for Africa) and logged over 32,000 QSOs.

This was of course a fund-raising event for the building of a girls school in Sudan.

Also QRV in January was the Spanish team operating from Bangladesh.

Operations from the S21XA team ran from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of Jan. and they logged over 17,000 QSOs in this 7 day period.

15<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of January saw the much needed Lakshadweep Islands QRV again but this time activating some rare IOTAs. AS-011 was signing VU7RG and AS-106 were signing VU7MY from the rare Minicoy Island.

This multi-national made in excess of 100,000 QSOs. As this was then placed at No. 2 on the 'Most wanted Survey' it will be interesting to see where it gets placed in 2008.

One that many were waiting for to fill their 'Full House' and to reach No. 1 Honor Roll was the latest operation from BS7H (Scarborough Reef). It was ten years since this one was activated.

This multi national team led by James 9VIYC, suffered all aspects of extreme conditions and Mother Nature's harshness that makes this the most wanted country of all.

Although 45,820 QSOs made it into their log, it is still expected that this will remain top of the Most Wanted List for many years to come.

This operation ran from April 28<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

Jointly at number one was another multi national team led by both Hrane YT1AD and David K3LP and was of course the N8S activation of DXCC's entity # 336, Swains Island.

This operation took place from May 3<sup>rd</sup> until the 15<sup>th</sup> and not only logged some 117,205 QSOs but in fact set an all time new record.

One that will go down in the history books for some time to come was the AFRI75 DXpedition led by EI2CA with team members: EI7CC, EI8CE, EI4DJ, EI4DJB, EI3GV, GI4VIV & ZS6WB. This was of course part of the years 75th Jubilee celebrations to mark the founding of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society in 1932.

3B7SP showed up in June followed by a large scale 3B7C operation in September.

VP6TD and VP6AL from Pitcairn made it into many logs in between May and August and FW0MO and FW0YL were particularly active on the low bands in July and August.

On August 14th a station signing 7O/G4HCL used a local Yemen Communications station to activate that rare entity but no documentation has been received by the DXCC desk at this time.

The later third of the year saw VK9WWI activate Willis mostly on the lower bands. Rare to semi to rare DXpeditions included 3C7Y, H40MY, 5L2MS (Liberia), 1A3A (during the SSB DX contest), VK9CCC, XF4s, TN6X and TN9Z, E4/OM2DX, 3D2AG/P (Rotuma), 9U0A, V8FDM, V8FWP, V8FWU and C91KDJ to name a few.

A station is now on Bouvet using the call sign 3Y0E but has not shown much activity as the year ends.

Let's hope 3Y0E makes it into many logs before they leave Bouvet in mid-Feb.

Many DXers got a rare Christmas present when St. Barthelemy (FJ) was added to

the DXCC list for contacts made on or after December 14, 2007.

That is the date when it was added to the US State Department Fact Sheet.

Martti OH2BH and Olli OH0XX came on the air on December 18th as FJ/OH2AM and operated through Christmas day giving many of the Deserving a new one. Local FJ5KH also was activated.

The addition of FJ to the DXCC list means that the current entities list was increased to 338. Stay tuned.

Already a few other operations have taken place from here also and some future activations have even been announced already for later on in the year.

Here is the data which can be added to those who run computer logging programs on this new entity.

Prefix - FJ

Country Name - Saint Barthelemy

CQ Zone - 8

Start date - Probably February 22, 2007

QSL Bureau - Yes (REF France)

UTC Offset - 4 hours behind UTC

IOTA - NA-146

ITU Zone - 11

Continent - North America

Longitude - 62.83 West

Latitude - 17.92 North

Other islands that will count for Saint Barthelemy - Chevreau, Coco, Fourchue, Fregate, La Tortue, Le Boulanger, Pain de Sucre, Pele and Toc Vers.

This certainly brought 2007 to a pleasant close and even to top things off, even better news is to come.

Here is an extract taken directly from the pages of 'The Daily DX'.

"Solar physicists all over the world are reporting the apparent official beginning of Solar Cycle 24. January fourth a magnetically reversed sunspot came around the limb of the sun. While intense solar activity will not begin right away, things should be looking up.

Solar cycles usually take a few years to build to their maximum, expected in 2011 or 2012, but the upswing is usually much faster than the downswing.

Spaceweather.com has posted a photo of the first sunspot of the new solar cycle at <http://tinyurl.com/2lta8t>.

The Associated Press reports that the

*(Continued on page 7)*



(Continued from page 6)

American NOAA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, confirmed Friday 4<sup>th</sup> that the new 11-year cycle has begun.”

Overhearing a conversation lately amongst some radio friends, I couldn't help but chuckle when I heard one telling the other that the bands are always closed, very poor conditions and absolutely no possibility of working DX. Perhaps others have also heard something similar??

Well, in fact, 291 entities were activated in 2007 and here is a continental breakdown of the ones believed to have been QRT for the past year:

Africa (11): 3C0, 5A, E3, FR/G, FR/J, FR/T, FT/W, FT/X, FT/Z, VK0 (Heard I.) and ZS8.

Antarctica (1): 3Y0 (Peter 1).

Asia (6): 7O (see editors note below), BV9P, EZ (see editors note below), P5, VU4 and XZ.

Europe (1): R1M (MV Island).

North America (6): CY0, CY9, FO/C, KP1, KP5 and TI9.

Oceania (17): 3D2/C, FK (Chesterfield), FO/A, FO/M, KH1, KH3, KH4, KH5, KH5K, KH7K, T31, T33, VK0/M, VK9/M, VK9/X, VP6/D and ZL9.

South America (5): CE0/X, HK0/M, PY0/S, PY0/T and VP8/Sand.

Editors note: Both EZ7V and 7O/G4HCL were QRV during 2007. EZ7V is a club callsign and was reported multiple times on the bands during 2007; however Amateur Radio has been banned from Turkmenistan for over 18 months.

7O/G4HCL was operating from the airport in Yemen however no paper work has been submitted to the DXCC Desk. Therefore both were listed as not active during 2007.

Looking over past issues of 'Echo Ireland' over the Christmas period, I stumbled among a table showing the VHF/UHF squares that had been worked by several 'EI's'.

I instantly wondered what kind of interest there would be in compiling a similar table, but this time, a HF Countries worked list.

Recapping from a recent visit to the 3B7C web-site, I recalled an excellent feature they hosted. Not only was one able to check their on-line log, but one could see the list of operators from a particular country who made it through.

I e-mailed the leading stations, and at this point, I would like to thank all who contributed and sent words of support.

## Countries Worked 2007

Sorted by callsign:

Callsign	10m	12m	15m	17m	20m	30m	40m	80m	160m	SSB	CW	Total
EI2CR										132		132
EI3IO	8	49	38	127	125	37	79	70	92	159	173	212
EI4CF	42	5	136	30	119	14	81	50	20	248	249	249
EI7BA	13	10	17	27	67	46	75	68	38	81	124	156
EI9FBB	74	68	48	148	46	107	162	123	11	196	154	217
EI9FVB	14	8	28	17	39	0	10	35	0	139	4	139
EI9JF	51	50	67	137	180	180	182	83	54	170	235	248
EI9O	0	0	10	34	83	0	12	26	0	108	0	108

The table above shows a list of countries worked, sorted by band, mode & totals for 2007.

If enough are interested, perhaps this could be a regular feature ??

You decide!

### VP6DX – Ducie Island.

Anyone QRV lately will undoubtedly have 'knocked across' the recent Ducie Island activation. This large multi national team broke several records and logged an amazing 183,686 QSO's.

Running several high power stations and the new K3 transceiver, they were QRV on all bands/modes. Operating from 11<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> February, one had ample opportunity to work them relatively easy, even 100W and dipole antennas managed to get through towards the end. The team are encouraging the use of their on-line QSL card request system.

Anyone who is able to make a donation of \$5 or more, can apply on line for their card to be mailed directly to them, once the on-line application has been applied. This is a fast system, and will be getting priority over cards mailed direct or via buro services.

For those who do not have internet access, cards can still be mailed directly to : **Carsten Esch**

**Drosselweg 3  
21376 Salzhausen  
Germany**

### TX5C – Clipperton.

Hopefully by time you read this, the much awaited Clipperton Island will be buzzing amongst the bands, and hopefully giving yet another 'new one' to many.

The intended dates are between 7<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> March, and at time of writing, they are en-route and are signing FO5A/MM.

This is going to be another high profile operation with a target of 100,000+ QSO's.

This large multi-national team consists of :

N6OX, N7CQQ, K4SV, N2WB, F6BFH, F5JY, F8FDN, FM5CD, F6FVY, K8LEE,

### Ducie Island EI QSOs

1	EI7BA	15
2	EI2CN	15
3	EI4CF	13
4	EI2JD	11
5	EI9JF	10
6	EI6IZ	8
7	EI3IO	8
8	EI9HX	7
9	EI4GJB	6
10	EI9FBB	6
11	EI6FR	6
12	EI7JN	5
13	EI4GXB	5
14	EI5DI	5
15	EI4IR	5
16	EI2CR	4
17	EI7CC	4
18	EI3Y	3
19	EI6S	3
20	EI3GYB	3
21	EI9HW	3
22	EI8FH	3
23	EI6JK	3
24	EI7FH	3
25	EI8EM	3
26	EI8H	3
27	EI4VGT	2
28	EI3GV	2
29	EI3HA	2
30	EI4IB	2
31	EI9O	2
32	EI6AK	2
33	EI9FVB	2
34	EI5E	1
35	EI8IP	1
36	EI5ID	1
37	EI3JB	1
38	EI6ARB	1
39	EI3CP	1
40	EI3GTB	1
41	EI5JC	1
42	EI7AU	1
43	EI6IM	1
44	EI5DR	1
45	EI2II	1
46	EI5GM	1
47	EI2GLB	1
48	EI2CA	1
49	EI4IJ	1
50	EI7GY	1

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

K4ZLE, N6HC, W8AEF, WA1S, K6SGH, K3VN, F2JD, F5AHO, F5PAC & VA7DX and will be operating from 2 different locations running high power stations.

Perhaps with the current conditions the way they are, EI's should probably put the most emphasis on the low bands for this one, 30-160M, where conditions should be favourable in hours of darkness (11pm to 8am).

On these bands and during these hours, EI/ G should have the advantage over the rest of Europe here!!!

This operation is to be QSLed to :

N7CQQ ARC,  
P. O. Box 31553 ,  
Laughlin,  
Nevada 89028 U.S.A.

Full report on this one should be available for the next issue.

That's about all for this issue, hope to return to the usual format next time around, perhaps with the inclusion of the HF table??

Please send on your comments about this as it is still in the 'trials and errors'.

Sincere thanks as always to : The Daily DX , W3UR & QST as reference and also to ALL who contributed towards the annual table.

Others are more than welcome to forward on theirs, their log extracts, snippets etc. and this is encouraged whenever possible.

Until next issue, best DX to all.

Vy 73 de Dave EI9FBB  
( ei9fbb@oceanfree.net )

### ITU Secretary General gets Ham Licence

The ARRL Letter reports that the Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has got his ham license.

Dr. Hamadoun Touré, a native of Mali, received the Swiss callsign HB9EHT (the ITU's headquarters are in Geneva).

The ITU is a United Nations agency responsible for establishing international regulations regarding all types of telecommunications



### RSGB President Installation

Pictured at the installation of new RSGB President Colin G3PSM in Southampton were IRTS President Finbarr EI1CS, RSGB President Colin Thomas G3PSM, IARU Region 1 Chairman Olle Garpestad LA2RR and Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T IARU Region 1.

### Shannon Basin Radio Club 2008



Standing, L to R: Mickey EI5EAB, Mark EI 1511, Fergus EI6IB, Anthony EI 1153, Richard EI5GUB, Franco (SWL), Tom (SWL)

Seated L to R: Tony EI3HA, Noel EI6HW, IRTS President Finbarr EI1CS, Chairman Pat EI9HX, Secretary Brian EI8IU, Tony EI6DL.

### International Space Station Repeater

The crossband 2 metre to 70cm FM repeater on the International Space Station (ISS) has been re-activated.

The downlink can be heard on 145.800 MHz FM and the uplink is 437.800 FM, both plus or minus doppler.  
There is no need for CTCSS or toneburst.

A guide to using the Space Station repeater can be read at:

Getting started on the ISS repeater:

[http://www.southgatearc.org/news/jul2005/iss\\_repeater\\_guide.htm](http://www.southgatearc.org/news/jul2005/iss_repeater_guide.htm)



## Logsearch.de

This is an e-mail from 'Ham Radio logsearch - free service for every DXped' Message:  
Some News from logsearch.de

Hello dear logsearch.de users, want give you a short notice about news at logsearch.de :

- over 2.2 million QSO's now stored for search
- 188 logs are included
- since start of logsearch.de over 800.000 visits
- logsearch.de use now 2 different server; 1x DL and 1x USA
- many performance improvements made in background to load web pages faster
- a search over the 2.2 mil Q's need mostly less then 0.5 sec
- have add a new menu point: files archive ( maybe i found a better name for it ) there are some useful files stored for your download, but you can also upload files if you think they can be important also for other Ham's. Please upload only HF or DX related files (like Antenna manuals, TRX manuals, TRX mods or other helpful documents
- working on some new functions; will come begin next year
- still looking for an PHP/Joomla programmer how wants assist to realize "logsearch for every one" (then i can take every log from every Ham worldwide)

For DX-stations and/or DXpeditioners: Can offer you a own logsearch page for your web. Have done for some DXpeds in the past (Swains Isl., Aves Isl. XF4,.....)

Example: <http://www.om0c.com/gambia/logsearch.htm>

Of course: without any fees for you.

Questions or feedback are always welcome!

If you like to assist logsearch.de, no I am not asking for money, please have a eye (means from time to time a click) on our Google Advertising. Every click gives us some Cent's - and that will share Server Provider costs - and costs you nothing.

73 Chris DL5NAM force12@web.de PS: ... and always not forget: I never learned programming, and never learned English :-)

## 3B7C Dxpedition

### Band Slots worked

#### EI Statistics from their website

1	EI7BA	16	45	EI2HY	2
2	EI3IO	16	46	EI6JK	2
3	EI9JF	15	47	EI3GYB	2
4	EI2JD	15	48	EI5JC	2
5	EI2CN	14	49	EI8BP	2
6	EI0W	14	50	EI9FVB	2
7	EI9FBB	13	51	EI9JU	2
8	EI4CF	11	52	EI6AK	1
9	EI5DR	11	53	EI2OD	1
10	EI2CR	9	54	EI5IHE	1
11	EI8HT	9	55	EI4RZ	1
12	EI7CC	8	56	EI7IP	1
13	EI6IZ	7	57	EI5GM	1
14	EI6FR	6	58	EI2IO	1
15	EI8GS	6	59	EI3GTB	1
16	EI2CL	6	60	EI3GRB	1
17	EI4DW	6	61	EI1CS	1
18	EI5FK	6	62	EI2SBC	1
19	EI0CZ	5	63	EI7JM	1
20	EI7JN	5	64	EI2HG	1
21	EI6IL	5	65	EI4J	1
22	EI9HX	4	66	EI2CA	1
23	EI7GY	4	67	EI4II	1
24	EI9O	4	68	EI2BUH	1
25	EI8EM	4	69	EI3JD	1
26	EI4IJ	4	70	EI3Y	1
27	EI3GU	4	71	EI2JL	1
28	EI4CP	4	72	EI6RF	1
29	EI75IRTS	3	73	EI2IU	1
30	EI4GXB	3	74	EI2HW	1
31	EI3HA	3	75	EI5DI	1
32	EI6S	3	76	EI/W5GN	1
33	EI4HH	3	77	EI2II	1
34	EI4GJB	3	78	EI8JF	1
35	EI6AN	3	79	EI4GMB	1
36	EI3JS	2	80	EI3DY	1
37	EI6HW	2	81	EI8FC	1
38	EI8CE	2	82	EI5X	1
39	EI3GV	2	83	EI2JC	1
40	EI8FH	2	84	EI4CW	1
41	EI8DD	2	85	EI8IU	1
42	EI2GLB	2	86	EI8IW	1
43	EI3GZ	2	87	EI4GW	1
44	EI9FN	2	88	EI7GW	1

The above statistics give an indication of EI DXing activity.

Congratulations s to all involved.

Order takes into consideration how soon 3B7C was worked on each band slot for ALL QSOs (not just the last one)!

## Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards  
directly to the  
Outgoing Bureau Manager:

**Anthony Baldwin**

**EI8JK,**

**Rathlin, Kilcrohane,**

**Co. Cork.**

**[ei8jk@amsat.org](mailto:ei8jk@amsat.org)**

## Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

The Dundalk Amateur Radio Society held it's Annual General Meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November last with a good attendance of members.

Officers elected were:

Chairman, Thos EI2JD  
Secretary, Oscar EI7IW  
Treasurer, Jim MI3SBI  
IRTS Rep. Thos EI2JD

To keep with new ComReg guidelines the club have applied to change the 2m Repeater call sign from EI7DAR to EI2DAR.

Information on the club from Thos EI2JD on 087-2953256

# Artur EI8JW/SP7BUP

*The influx of Eastern European immigrants in recent years has provided a welcome new source of members for IRTS. Polish amateurs have been to the forefront of this development and they have made their presence felt on the bands, and indeed, at Rallies around the country.*

*Using their CEPT privileges, incoming amateurs have used EI/ Home Call during their initial months in this country. However, after that original 90 day period they are required to either obtain a local callsign or go QRT. To be fair, ComReg have been very cooperative in facilitating the issue of Irish licences to Eastern European amateurs who could show that they qualify for one on the basis of a callsign issued in another CEPT country.*

*Artur Laskowski is from Poland, but now residing here. He has written the following piece in the Polish language directed towards his countrymen who are members of IRTS.*

Witam Kolegów!

Nazywam się Artur Laskowski- SP7BUP. Niedawno otrzymałem irlandzką licencję i mój znak teraz to EI8JW. Mieszkam w Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, gdzie zainstalowana jest moja stacja i skąd działam. Krótkofalowcem jestem od 2004 roku, kiedy to pozytywnie zdałem egzamin na kategorii 1. Moje zainteresowanie radiem zaczęło się w wojsku, gdzie poznałem uroki pracy na radiostacji i nauczyłem się alfabetu Morsa. Obecnie mieszkam z Żoną i z labradorem Maksem na Zielonej Wyspie i na ile pozwala mi czas jestem aktywny na pasmach. Ostatnio brałem udział w zawodach CQIR'07. Mój pierwszy sprzęt to było Yaesu FT-757 GX II i antena Long Wire 20,5m oraz praca spod znaku EI/SP7BUP. Obecnie posiadam Icom IC 746 a moja antena to GP 7 DX. Jednym z największych dla mnie sukcesów podczas pobytu w Irlandii jest nawiązanie łączności ze stacją okolicznościową SN6WTC, która pracowała w rocznicę zamachu terrorystycznego z 11.09.2001 roku. W związku z tym, iż moja antena jest typowo dx-owa i mam problemy z odsłuchem lokalnych stacji, postanowiłem powiększyć swój system antenowy i zbudować dipol na 20m oraz antenę ¼ fali na 2 m, więc mam nadzieję słyszeć w niedługim czasie Kolegów z Irlandii oraz Anglii.



Na zakończenie pragnę gorąco podziękować wszystkim Kolegom, którzy okazali mi pomoc i życzliwość, a w szczególności Seanowi EI4GK, Tonemu EI8JK i Wiesiowi EI4JT (SP8FNA) Vx 73!  
Artur EI8JW (SP7BUP)

Welcome!

My name is Artur Laskowski. I'm from Poland and my Polish callsign is SP7BUP. A few weeks ago I applied for an EI licence and, I am proud to say, I have just been issued the callsign EI8JW. I live in

Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford and I operate my station from there. I've been licensed in Poland since 2004 when I passed the Examination for my CEPT Class 1 licence.

My interest in Amateur Radio began during my service in the Polish army where I was attached to a Signals unit. That was also where I learned to operate CW. I now live with my wife and Max, our Labrador! In my spare time I operate on the Amateur bands. In recent months I enjoyed participating in CQIR '07.

When I first came to Ireland, I used the callsign EI/SP7BUP using a Yaesu FT-757GXII and a 20.5 meter Long Wire. Now I use an ICOM IC746 and a GP7DX antenna. As my antenna is dedicated DX antenna I don't hear many local stations. My biggest success since I came to Ireland was a QSO with the Special Event Station SN6WTC. This station was operated to commemorate those who died in the terrorist attack of 9/11 in USA.

Right now I am working on a ¼ wave antenna for 2 meters and a dipole for 20 meters. I look forward to some good local QSOs on 2 meters soon.

Finally, my thanks to those friends in IRTS who were very kind and helpful to me - especially Seán EI4GK, Tony EI8JK and Wiesław EI4JT/SP8NFA"

Artur Laskowski, 167 Madeira Oaks, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

## Bushvalley Amateur Radio Club

The Bushvalley Amateur Radio Club was formed in the village of Dervock in January 2008 with a total of twelve members attending the first meeting. Club Meetings will be held on the last Thursday night of each month.

The Club are using Dervock Community House as their Club Rooms and have the use of all facilities within the Community House. This includes Internet access, printing facilities, phone and fax. Dervock is a village steeped in history, from an Olympic marathon winner to American President's ancestors.

## IRTS

### AGM Weekend

**April 26/27th 2008**

**Salthill Hotel,  
Salthill, Galway**

**See page 5**

## South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The Annual General Meeting of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group took place on Monday the 25th of February last. The meeting was well attended and the attendance included IRTS President Finbarr Buckley EI1CS who gave a very interesting talk covering much of the interesting history of Amateur Radio in Ireland and also gave some information about the IRTS and some recent talks with ComReg. Finbarr was presented with Waterford Crystal glasses by incoming club chairperson, John McCarthy, EI8JA.

The incoming committee for 2008 is as follows;

Chairperson is John McCarthy EI8JA, Nicky Madigan EI3JB is Vice Chairperson, Secretary is Mark Wall EI7IS and Michael Hoban EI5DCB remains on as Treasurer. PRO is Francis Lenane EI5GOB.

The officers are John Ronan EI7IG, Declan Fitzgerald EI5GRB and Eddie Steadman EI9DJB.

Please note that membership subscriptions are now due for 2008 and can be passed on to any committee member. The club is also looking for volunteers to read the news, if you can help please send an e-mail to "info at searg dot com" or "markwall at vodafone dot ie"

## World Amateur Radio Day

Each year on the 18th April, Radio Amateurs celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On that day, 83 years ago, in 1925, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded. The theme of the celebrations this year is: "**Amateur Radio: A Foundation for Technical Knowledge**".

It is no secret that lot of professionals in the field of radio, TV, communications, electronics, etc. have started their technical education as young Radio Amateurs.

Although Amateur Radio has a different face nowadays – Digital Communications, Voice over Internet Protocol, Satellite up- and downlinks, etc. – it is even of greater value as a foundation for technical knowledge for youngsters. And much more – it is and should be used as unique attraction for future young Radio Amateurs.

The IARU Region 1 Executive Committee would like to use the occasion to promote and publicise Amateur Radio, and appeals to all Member Societies to find suitable ways of celebrating World Amateur Radio Day.

Many ways can be considered – inviting youngsters to Radio Clubs, showing up on the air with a special callsign, organising a station in public area with media coverage or publicly honouring veterans. Whatever method is chosen, I suggest that you write and publish a Press Release for the media, giving the background to World Amateur Radio Day, and promoting the value of Amateur Radio as a foundation for a technical career.

The Executive Committee will be very pleased to hear how Member Societies chose to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day

**Ole Garpestad, LA2RR**  
**President, IARU Region 1**

## Visitors can operate in VK

The Australian Communications and Media Authority ACMA has issued a class licence to allow visiting amateurs to operate in Australia for up to 90 days using their home call sign followed by the suffix VK followed by "portable" and then the location of the station, without doing anything more.

That class licence comes into effect on 14 February.

There are 5 levels of visitor licence, 3 matching the Australian Advanced, Standard and Foundation licenses, a VHF licence, and finally, in effect, a 146 to 148 FM licence.

The privileges of each level are set out in the class licence.

ACMA will publish on its website a table showing equivalencies to the Australian visitor levels for different overseas licences.

This class licence for visiting amateurs is, we hope, the final step before CEPT allows Australian Advanced licensees to operate in the CEPT countries, some 32 countries mainly in Europe, using their Australian call sign, without doing more.

The WIA will let everyone know immediately CEPT has allowed Australian amateurs to operate under what is called TR 61 01.

<http://www.wia.org.au>

## Shannon Basin Radio Club

The club would like to extend its sympathy to the family of the late John EI8DL, a valued club member, who sadly passed away a short while ago.

The club recently held its AGM in Hannon's Hotel in Roscommon Town.

The newly elected committee are as follows;

Chairperson	Pat EI9HX
Secretary	Brian EI8IU
Treasurer	Fergus EI6IB
PRO	Anthony, EI 1153
QSL manager,	Mickey EI5EAB
Contest Manager	Richard EI5GUB.

The club would like to extend thanks to all the members of the outgoing committee for their work over the years. Thanks also to IRTS President, EI1CS who attended the AGM and gave a very interesting talk. For details of upcoming meetings and activities please contact EI9HX or EI8IU.

## Irish Radio Transmitters Society

### 2 Metres Counties Contest

**Easter Monday March 24th**

**1400 - 1600 (local)**

## From the Archives by Finbarr EI1CS

Last August I was delighted on behalf of the Society to receive an archive of documents presented by Terry Upton EI7CCB, which had been collected over the years by his late father Jimmy Upton EI8Z, a former president of IRTS.

The archive goes back to the mid 1800s but from our hobby point of view to the foundation of the Dublin Wireless Club in 1913. It is an invaluable collection of material which will help future historians chart the growth and development of amateur radio in Ireland,

In the early years of the last century it was impossible to separate the Professional from the Amateur because all were involved in experiments. In 1913 the Dublin Wireless Club was formed. Unfortunately it was not long in existence before the outbreak of war in 1914. It is of particular interest to note that during those early years the late Joseph Mary Plunkett was interested in radio and a photograph showing him operating radio equipment is on display in the 1916 section of the National Museum. The Dublin Wireless Club remained dormant during the years of the First World War and indeed activities did not resume until 1923. The War Act of the UK Government 1914 was never repealed in Ireland. In 1914 the police confiscated all wireless equipment including aerial wire and poles, failure to comply could result in a jail sentence.

One amateur, the late Joe Campbell EI4B tells the story of his arrest and being taken to Dublin Castle. It appears that there was a pole on a chimney of his home, which he could not remove without special ladders which he did not do. He got away with it until 1915 when some new policeman spotted it. Joe was brought before the chief of Police, and he told the police that the pole on his home was a Flagpole where he always flew the Union Jack on the King's birthday. He felt highly indignant and that he, a loyal subject of his Majesty should be so insulted. He was driven home in the Chief's car and he received a letter of apology from the chief of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, which he had framed and hung in his place of work.

One of the reasons that the ban on any form of Wireless in the country remained so long was the troubles between 1917 – 1921 resulting in the change over of the state in 1922 and the Civil War in 1923

which did not permit normal activity to take place. In June 1922 the remainder of the old Dublin Wireless Club came together to form a committee to get things going again. They had a new premises in 29 Sth. Anne St.

Plans were made of a general meeting to be held at the Central Hotel on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1922 but had to be cancelled by the bombardment of the Four Courts and the beginning of the Civil War.

In the meantime a group of enthusiasts at the Technical School in Kevin St under the leadership of Hal Hodgins formed themselves into a group called the Radio Society of Ireland. Hal, who was a wireless operator away at sea in the first world war was a teacher in the new wireless school set up to train wireless operators.

Late in 1923 the Radio Association of Ireland asked the Dublin Wireless Club to join them and in 1925 the new body was formed and took the name, the Wireless Society of Ireland.

The first committee meeting of the new society was on 4th September 1925 at 29 Sth. Anne St.

The Royal Dublin Society in the meantime had recommenced operations again in 1923 in Ballsbridge and invited the Marconi Company to come to Dublin and give a demonstration to the visitors at the show. The Company set up their station in the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire. They set up receivers and amplifiers with horn speakers, which were concealed in flowers. The music and voice was being received from English stations and relayed to Ballsbridge.

The demonstration was a huge success and the people did not know where the music was coming from. The Government informed Marconi that they had no permit to transmit in the country and they must stop, so they had to pack up and return to England.

When the news of the closedown of the Marconi Demonstration was known to the public there was a huge outcry from all the papers all over the country and it continued for two more years.

In 1925 the Marconi Company made a formal request to the Government to build a Wireless Station in Dublin but the Government turned it down. They issued a White Paper, to see if we needed a Wireless Station here and they then put a Bill before the Dail. – The Wireless Tele-

graphy Act 1926.

In the same year 2RN Dublin Radio Station opened located in the Phoenix Park.

Around this time people particularly interested in the transmitting aspects of radio were meeting in venues around Dublin. They felt that their needs were not being catered for by the WSI.

This group went under the name of Irish Radio Transmitters Society. We read that their officers elected in 1927/28 were Col. Dennis GW11B, President, V.R.Neill GW15NJ Vice President, and Sec. D.G. Kennedy GW14C.

You will notice that EI operators were still using the prefix of GW1. This was a much smaller group.

From 1925 – to 1928 there was a decline as SWLs listened to commercial radio, which had come on line, and kits were no longer being built. For Transmitter members costs were a feature.

The country was in its formative years and at the beginning of the thirties, the economic climate was not good. The average wage was 30/- to £2 and the subscription to the society in 1927 was 10/- Most of the early pioneers were people of money like Retired Army officers, doctors, professional people etc.

The number of members who lost their jobs or had to emigrate did have a serious effect on the membership as a whole; Those who were left regrouped from the old WSI and the transmitter group of the old Irish Radio Transmitter Society to form a new society The Irish Radio Transmitters Society.

A Special General Meeting was called for June 9<sup>th</sup> 1932 at the Moira Hotel in Trinity St. Dublin to form a provisional Committee which would draft a constitution and rules, to elect a new committee and to examine possible fields of activity for the future.

A draft copy of these original rules is still preserved and it interesting to note the similarity with the present Constitution and Rules of the IRTS.

The first Special General Meeting of the IRTS was held at the Moira Hotel on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1932 at 8pm. The Constitution and Rules were discussed and passed.

The elected Committee were:

President Col. M. Dennis;

Vice President Mr Marshall Harris.

Hon Sec: Mr. H.C. McElligott;

Hon.Treas.: Mr. R.V. Sadleir.

Committee Members: D.M.Dwyer:D.F. Dwyer: T.Green: C. Harper.

And so a new Society was born and is still here after 75 years.

# Can you get rid of that 'Noise'?

Peter Mac Dougall, G7VEW – EI299

A good 'Earth' is essential for effective transmissions. No transmitter or receiver will operate properly without an earth connection. This doesn't just mean an 'electrical earth', like - through that long, top pin in your mains plug!

What I'm getting at is a good RF Earth, "As-In-Days-Of-Yore!"

For short wave listening an earth system isn't quite so important although the instruction manual that came with your communications receiver (have you read it?) will tell you something like 'this equipment must be earthed' on the very first page.

I'm talking about base stations, not portables, mobiles or hand-helds.

It seems that, looking through the lists of equipment used by B/C & amateur band log reporters, that's what most of us use .... and that's where many of us are complaining about 'noise' problems.

We can blame 'Modern Times' ... lots more electrical equipment in use nowadays. We can cite nearby power lines that perhaps haven't always been there? We might blame all the peripheral and ancillary power requisites needed for our microwave ovens, computers, 'wall-warts', mobile phone chargers, sexual accessories, (Hey, don't use them off the mains!) or almost anything that can be plugged-in to our home electricity supply and in use by others in the home while we are going about the most important and serious business of all .... our radio hobby!

Please try to improve the old fashioned 'EARTH'!

On the back of 'real-old-wirelesses' there were two screw terminals or wee holes to poke a small 'pluggy thing' into! The 'AE' was connected to the antenna, our link with 'the ether' (**up in space**, if you like!) and the 'EA' should have been connected to a substantial thick wire that led from the chassis down (by the shortest possible route) to an earth terminal - which meant exactly what it said, **a connection to our planet** ... or the nearest point we could get to it, the **ground** by our house.

The old wireless engineers' theory was that this completed the circuit - the elec-

tronics in the set were designed to optimise with this final 'home-user' essential. "The Man" would even come out and fit a system for you, like today's satellite or cable TV installers.

There is an old tale of an elderly lady who's wireless wouldn't work very well. She could hear a lot of stations but also an awful lot of noise, and when "the man" had a look at the earth he found the wire leading to a jam jar, inside the window ledge full of soil!

I improved the reception conditions here by grounding my Drake R8A Rx to a four foot copper pipe hammered down below the same ground-floor shack window-ledge where the antenna came in.

That was my main 'earthing system' and it worked very well until I took up amateur radio transmitting again, then I found that it just wasn't adequate.

I have read several 'ground-related' articles in the American radio press.

The 'hams' there really 'go-to-town' with their grounding, in fact my latest American radio purchase (the GE/RCA Superaudio) had almost obligatory instructions re antenna installation and grounding in both English and Spanish from no less than **"THE FCC"**!

(More feared by hams than the SAS, CIA, FBI, IRS - and The Queen's Corgis!)

Good grounding keeps the noise down!

An almost 'non-technical' article showed how one man had laid a lawn over a huge net of chicken wire, soldered it together at many points and then seeded it, grew the grass very evenly and found that, not only did his ride-on mower negotiate it very well but it provided a wonderful earth system, a counterpoise for his QRO station. Once again, it kept the noise down!

Another article showed a flagpole, Stars & Stripes topside, which was in fact a disguised half-wave vertical antenna but it's **TWELVE** grounding radials ran away from it like the spokes of a cart-wheel for just over half a wavelength each. Result, practically **No Noise!**

Early 'Practical Householder' books of the 20s & 30s advocated an 'earth' directly under the common 'random long-wire' aerial of those days.

One book shows a diagram of ten - one-yard metal rods sunk at equidistant points below the wire, solder-linked together and connected to the receiver's ground terminal. The point being, low or no noise reception.

Even 'Coronation Street' style short back yards had a wire, with insulators at each end, running from the house chimney down to the end of the yard (often onto the 'privvy' roof!) for use as a wireless aerial. I've seen many still in existence today when travelling through *turn-of-the-19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>-century* urban areas by train. You can bet there was another wire buried in the ground beneath them, one book advised fixing this to the outside toilet pipes.

(No jokes about cures for constipation please!)

'Noise' is getting worse. But our ability to combat it should be getting better. Maybe by following Granddad's methods or by experimenting with perhaps the easiest of radio's main components (the RF Earth) in modern ways - 'the grounding' -

**the connection TO this planet against the signals radiating around it** could be the cause of much of our noise problems today.

It might mean a bit of back-breaking outdoor work. We all have bits of wire, long and short, unused in scrap-boxes, old computer leads for instance, stripped and separated, old telephone extension wires, mains leads off old TVs (similarly separated to their 3 component conductors) and, if like me - you had to have your house rewired, did you roll up all the old stuff thinking, *Navy style*, "That might come in handy one day!"

Don't bother too much about its condition as long as it still conducts and the ends can be soldered to each other. Plan to bury it as near to directly under your antenna as possible but randomly thereabouts would do.

If you can get as much wire as possible down just below the surface of your back yard, front garden, patio or ... lucky you - a small field, then run a good thick piece into the shack I'm sure your noise level will reduce considerably.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Incidentally, mineral-rich soil makes the best RF earth. (Ironstone chippings used to be sold in most garden centres, a thin layer of them would be a big improvement.)

Sandy soil is the very worst earth.

(Unless it's connected to the sea, Hi!)

Any ground that gets a lot of water is superb. No problem for us in Ireland?

If it is too dry, dare I suggest that you use the old 'Peter Madison' adage and chuck a "bucket of water" all over it!

Lawn sprinkler systems might seem to be a good idea but remember, they are yet another potential electrical interference source and are often 'randomly timed' – e.g. – just when that KG4 DXer is coming back to your CQ!

Now then, Radio Fans, here's our chance to try to solve this 21<sup>st</sup> century plague!

Please let me know what you think about noise, from the ground-up!

Peter, EI299/G7VEW  
(ei299g7vew@eircom.net)



Ger McNamara EI4GXB with daughter Aoibhinn, aged 7, participating in the ARRL Kids Day Event on January 6th 2008

## Radio Amateurs of Lebanon Message from RAL

Hello friends.

This is to inform you that on Friday November 09, 2007, the general assembly elected the new RAL Executive Committee for a term of three years. The new committee is officially now active and at the service of all the hams in Lebanon.

The new committee members :

OD5TE	Hani Raad President & RAL Official Representative
OD5KU	Elie Kadi - Vice President
OD5RW	John Gibran - Secretary
OD5YL	Louisette Abou-Jawdeh - Treasurer
OD5KM	Georges Salame - Accountant
OD5RI	Rizkallah Azrak - QSL Manager & IARU Coordinator
OD5SB	Rami Finge - Member
OD5UX	Mario Kfoury - Member

Best 73

John Gibran, OD5RW  
Official RAL Secretary  
Radio Amateurs of Lebanon

## Another Radio Anniversary

Our 75th anniversary years has come and gone . During the year both here on the weekly news as well as in the article in the recent edition of Echo Ireland entitled "WRCs and the Radio Amateur" we drew you attention to a couple of other anniversaries relevant to amateur radio. While these anniversaries were of an international nature we cannot let our anniversary year go by without mentioning one more anniversary that is particular to Ireland.

On December 28th 1937 the then Minister for Post and Telegraphs Oscar Traynor signed into law Statutory Rules and Orders No 330 of 1937 "The Wireless Telegraphy Experimenter's License Regulations".

Although the Wireless Telegraphy Act was enacted 11 years previously in 1926, these regulations appear to be the first set of regulations enacted to cover transmission equipment. All previous sets of regulations appeared to relate to the radio receiving licenses.

Any experimenter who was licensed in the last century will no doubt remember these regulations as they had a longevity and were only replaced at the start of this century, in 2002, by the current regulations.

In the fast changing world of wireless communications it is unlikely that any other regulations will have the longevity that the 1937 regulations had and indeed as ComReg has proposed changing to a license for life approach, it is unlikely that the 2002 regulations will even have a lifespan of one-tenth that of the 1937 regulations.

It has been a year to remember, with not only our own 75th anniversary but also three other anniversaries that highlighted important and historic milestones, both nationally and internationally, in the development of amateur radio.

## 6 Metre Repeater in Belfast

A new 6 metre repeater is operating from Belfast on 50.780 MHz.  
Input is on 21.280 and the repeater uses 110.9Hz CTCSS.



# CQIR, Ireland Calling – The Results.

In 2007, the Irish Radio Transmitters Society celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Among the many events sponsored by IRTS during the anniversary year, CQIR probably shared the honours with AF-R175 – the DXpedition to Swaziland. CQIR was a 24-hour HF contest, held on the weekend of 29/30<sup>th</sup> September, and intended to bring together radio amateurs worldwide who were Irish or had ancestral connections with Ireland.

A few things made CQIR stand out from the many international contests held throughout the year. As might be expected, the 32 EI and GI counties counted as multipliers and were part of the exchange for EI/GI entrants. This could have been a problem, given that there's simply not enough amateurs here to host a truly international contest in the normal sense of an "everyone works everyone" event, or even where Irish contesters work everyone else. Nevertheless, we have history on our side in that, since the time of the potato famine in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Irish have emigrated to every corner of the Earth. The population of Ireland at that time was more than 8 million and even now, 150 years later, it is still below 6 million. The difference is that, nowadays, there are 40 million people of Irish descent in the USA alone, and millions more in the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South America and South Africa.

Taking this into account, we decided that "Irish" entrants, regardless of where they lived, could also exchange their ancestral county – and count as multipliers.

Rather than a serial, the Overseas Irish sent the year they, or their nearest ancestor left Ireland to live abroad. This added a bit of friendly rivalry with many 19<sup>th</sup> and even 18<sup>th</sup> century years appearing.

Another big incentive was that any entrant, with 75 or more QSOs, qualified for a draw with a prize of a weeks holiday in Kinnitty Castle, Co. Offaly, for two people, with free travel from anywhere in the world – and a corresponding prize of a long weekend in New York City for the winning EI/GI entrant. To keep things "fair", entry was restricted to single operators. The one exception was our HQ station EI75IRTS – although no one on the team was included in the draw. The fact that any entrant, not just the "winner" in the conventional sense, could win a holiday was a first for IRTS. This was all at no expense to IRTS, as Paul EI2CA

had secured sponsorship in good time.

We all know that some things happen slowly in the amateur radio world, and international contests are no exception. Planning started two years before the event, and the rules were published in mid-2006 and circulated to radio societies and contest calendars – with constant prodding to get CQIR listed. These days, almost all contesters log on computer and they expect logging software to be readily available. CQIR's scoring and multipliers were kept simple so that it would be easy to add support and, by the time of the contest, entrants could choose from SD, Win-Test and YFKtest.

## HQ Station – EI75IRTS

The Society located its headquarters station EI75IRTS in the Phoenix Park, on the Civil Defence Training School, next to the Arus. President Mary McAleese had launched CQIR in late 2006 at a meeting with the Society, and had extended an invitation to Overseas Irish to join in our Jubilee celebrations.

Despite very poor conditions, that's exactly what many of them did. It was strange, but very encouraging, to work a station in Argentina, struggle with his English, and receive the exchange '59 Clare 1824'! There is no doubt that for many of the overseas Irish, this was a really an emotional experience, and indeed for many of us on this side. We were often pleasantly surprised by the sudden appearance of an Irishman from some far-flung corner of the globe.

EI75IRTS was on the air for the full 24 hours, with three well-equipped stations active on whatever bands we could find open. A rhombic at 65 feet, held up by four 4-wheel drive cherry pickers really gave us a big signal into the States. The towers came thanks to the 'Height for Hire' company and the pre-contest pile-ups on the Friday evening made the effort of putting up such a big array well worthwhile. A tri-bander on a mobile tower (thanks to Thos 2JD) and high dipoles for 40 and 80m completed the antenna set up. It was just a pity that conditions did not hold up for the duration of the contest.

## The Contest:

Everything went as planned, except for the one thing we couldn't control – propagation. September 2007 was right at the sunspot minimum – but it got worse, because the bottom dropped out of

the bands and even 20m was closed for long periods, rhombic or no rhombic!

Nevertheless, hundreds of stations took part, and it soon became clear that people all over the world were proud to advertise their Irish origins. You'll see, from the soapbox comments, how much CQIR was enjoyed and how many people would like to see it as an annual event.

## Results:

We received 148 entries and 11 check-logs representing more than 13,500 QSOs – including those from EI75IRTS. All QSOs were loaded into a single Access database to make it easy to cross-check QSOs and identify discrepancies – there were even some QSOs claimed on 160m (not valid for CQIR). All logs are listed in the results, even if they were submitted in an invalid format, and none was excluded from the draw for this reason.

Even though it was not possible to cross-check all QSOs directly, errors could still be identified where, for example, the exchange differed, or was completely out of step, from that recorded in other logs. Access is a powerful tool because it's so easy to produce reports and lists in any chosen sequence.

The 10-minute rule was a significant factor in "lost" QSOs. No band or mode changes were permitted within 10 minutes of the first such QSO on any band/mode combination. This could have a cumulative effect because invalid QSOs are ignored, and the timer starts again after the next valid band or mode change.

## Prize Draw:

The prize draw took place, in public, following the IRTS committee meeting in the Comfort Inn, Portlaoise on xx November 2007. Ger Gervin EI8CC, an auditor of the society, had the honour of drawing the winning tickets.

The DX winner was Ian "Wilf" Prater M0WLF, from Bristol England. Wilf is a member of the Bristol Contest Group and has previously traveled to Bere Island for the IOTA Contest. He probably lives closer to Ireland than any other entrant, but he's not complaining – he says he will probably travel long-path this time!

The EI/GI winner was Declan Horan EI9FVB, from Ballincollig, Co. Cork. As part of his trip to New York, he will visit ARRL's HQ in Newington, Connecticut

## Scores:

### EI/GI SSB

		Q	P	M	Score	
1	EJ9HQ	587	587	42	24654	DON
2	EI9HX	568	568	43	24424	ROS
3	EI4CF	476	476	43	20468	GAL
4	EI4GXB	L 298	298	32	9536	CLA
5	GI7AXB	L 287	287	28	8036	ANT
6	EI9FVB	175	175	26	4550	COR
7	EI3GRB	167	167	22	3674	CLA
8	EI7JN	299	299	11	3289	DUB
9	EI8JR	286	286	11	3146	DUB
10	EI6GF	151	151	19	2869	WEX
11	GI4SIZ	102	102	24	2448	DER
12	EI2II	143	143	16	2288	GAL
13	EI1CS	106	106	16	1696	COR
14	EI3FFB	L 76	76	16	1216	TIP
15	EI3ENB	L 55	55	20	1100	KLK
16	EI5GPB	L 74	74	14	1036	COR
17	EI4GK	90	90	11	990	DUB
18	EI7IG	L 52	52	14	728	WAT
19	GI4AAM	L 54	54	12	648	DOW
20	EI/SP7BUP	L 34	34	3	102	WEX
21	EI8IQ	L 11	11	3	33	WEX
22	GI7OMY	L 14	14	2	28	ANT
23	EI5FQB	6	6	4	24	OFF

21	SP4LVK		29	29	9	261	
22	K0RMK	L	79	79	3	237	TIP
23	PE2KP		24	24	9	216	
24	PE1ILTY	L	22	22	9	198	
25	UA3LHL	L	27	27	7	189	
26	VK6NU	L	19	19	8	152	CAV
27	CT1EEB		15	15	8	120	
27	YO6QT		15	15	8	120	
29	YO8COK	L	16	16	6	96	
30	OK1VHV	L	12	12	7	84	
31	DL7LZ		13	13	6	78	
32	VE2DC		15	15	5	75	DUB
33	DN4SB		9	9	5	45	
34	LZ4ZD		7	7	6	42	
35	DL3KDC		7	7	5	35	
35	YO4GNJ	L	7	7	5	35	
37	DD8IU	L	6	6	5	30	
38	G4WGE	L	5	5	4	20	
38	N7VPN	L	5	5	4	20	
40	K5VXM		5	5	3	15	
40	M0KNG		5	5	3	15	
42	YO9BFM	L	4	4	3	12	
43	DO7DU		4	4	2	8	
44	9A8MM	Q	2	2	2	4	
44	K8LIZ		2	2	2	4	TIP
44	KD7ZIK	L	2	2	2	4	ARM
47	IZ0KBW	L	1	1	1	1	
47	KP4BT	L	1	1	1	1	

### EI/GI Mixed

		Q	P	M	Score	
1	EI/W5GN	L 324	441	38	16758	CLA
2	EI3IO	429	500	31	15500	DUB
3	EI7GY	L 205	270	41	11070	CLA
4	EI9ES	L 73	98	19	1862	DUB
5	EI2CL	67	68	26	1768	DUB
6	GI4NKB	89	175	8	1400	DOW
7	EI3JD	L 41	63	17	1071	OFF
8	EI6JK	96	97	11	1067	DUB
9	EI6D	L 55	56	15	840	KLD
10	EI8DL	L 47	70	7	490	LEI

### Overseas Mixed

		Q	P	M	Score	
1	LZ1BJ	295	370	39	14430	
2	DJ6OZ	L 175	278	51	14178	
3	DJ5MW	161	241	45	10845	
4	DL6ATM	133	211	39	8229	
5	UA9CSA	199	289	28	8092	
6	OK1NU	122	164	48	7872	
7	LX/EI2J	Q 189	233	32	7456	DUB
8	9A3ST	144	212	29	6148	
9	OH2BSI	L 121	220	27	5940	
10	SP9JZT	141	165	35	5775	
11	DL1MDU	L 90	145	37	5365	
12	DK5DQ	137	160	31	4960	
13	DL4SUN	79	125	34	4250	
14	PA0MIR	L 115	159	25	3975	
15	GM8OEG	104	125	29	3625	COR
16	DL3ZAI	78	134	27	3618	
17	KZ2I	130	157	19	2983	ROS
18	DM2FDO	L 80	117	22	2574	
19	UT7NW	L 77	122	21	2562	
20	DL4EAX	L 74	86	27	2322	
21	DJ1YFK	L 73	145	12	1740	
22	G3XUD	L 55	107	16	1712	TIP
23	DL9ZWG	L 53	66	22	1452	
24	LZ2FM	L 50	99	13	1287	
25	AA8LL	108	112	11	1232	TIP
26	RK9CWW	60	98	12	1176	
27	YO2CJX	40	69	13	897	
28	G4ERW	L 38	69	11	759	
29	G3VQO	L 21	31	12	372	COR
30	K3ZO	30	37	10	370	
31	NS8O	22	43	5	215	LIM
32	RX9FW	13	17	7	119	
32	YL2PP	L 11	17	7	119	
34	PA0DVM	L 9	12	8	96	
35	YO4AAC	Q 10	18	4	72	
36	G0MRH	L 8	15	3	45	
36	OM5NL	6	9	5	45	

### EI/GI CW

		Q	P	M	Score	
1	EI6IZ	191	382	20	7640	MAY
2	EI8JF	L 138	276	21	5796	DON

### Overseas SSB

		Q	P	M	Score	
1	M0WLF	374	374	31	11594	
2	DG1EA	125	125	38	4750	
3	DK9CL	91	91	33	3003	
4	EA3NA	L 101	101	22	2222	
5	DC4A	95	95	21	1995	
6	MU0GSY	L 69	69	23	1587	
7	EC7ANC	77	77	20	1540	
8	ZS6DXB	297	297	5	1485	
9	G0VOK	63	63	19	1197	ARM
10	DL1SWB	L 54	54	22	1188	
11	WQ3X	84	84	12	1008	WAT
12	SM7WVK	L 45	45	22	990	
13	2I0JVI	L 61	61	16	976	DER
14	PA4WG	33	33	22	726	
15	G8MIA	L 35	35	13	455	
16	M0NBR	L 33	33	13	429	
17	OZ9V	L 31	31	11	341	
18	IK8UND	26	26	11	286	
19	LA2GN	L 23	23	12	276	
20	SM6WZH	L 24	24	11	264	

## Overseas CW

		Q	P	M	Score	
1	OK1TN	202	404	37	14948	
2	G3LET	190	380	27	10260	LIM
3	DL8COG	78	156	23	3588	
4	F5LEN	L 83	166	15	2490	
5	ZL4E	120	240	10	2400	ARM
6	YU1FG	L 78	156	12	1872	
7	M0AAA	130	260	7	1820	
8	MU0FAL	L 96	192	9	1728	
9	G3GLL	L 79	158	10	1580	
10	IZ2EJU	60	120	13	1560	
11	G3WPF	L 74	148	10	1480	GAL
12	GW3NJW	98	196	7	1372	DUB
13	LA6CF	34	68	10	680	
14	T94WG	L 29	58	7	406	
15	OK2SWD	23	46	8	368	
16	LZ7H	Q 27	54	6	324	
17	DL5SWB	21	42	6	252	
17	OM3BA	L 18	36	7	252	
19	OQ1C	L 92	184	1	184	
20	PA0ATG	Q 13	26	5	130	
21	LY2MM	13	26	3	78	
22	LY2BNL	8	16	4	64	
23	DH5ABC	L 7	14	4	56	
23	OM4JD	14	28	2	56	
25	LU4MHQ	L 6	12	3	36	
26	YO9HG	4	8	4	32	
27	RW6FO	L 6	12	1	12	
28	W5YO	1	2	1	2	TIP

## Checklogs:

4Z50Z, DG1BQC, DK6XZ, DL2IH, DL3DUE, EI75IRTS, HK3JJH, LA4RT, LA6BNA, OK1KZ, OK7RJ

## Soapbox:

**2I0JVI:** Good fun! Not as many contacts as I would have liked but it was my first serious contest even though I'm not a con-tester usually!

**9A8MM:** Thanks for nice contest. I'm sorry I couldn't be more time on the air. Hope to participate next year as well.

**AA8LL:** Hope to visit Ireland soon! SD worked FB, thanks! Poor propagation, wish I made more qsos!

**CT1EEB:** My Galway roots dates back 5 generations, so, I have a bit of Irish blood myself, Hi! Great contest will be here again next year... ohhh yeahh SD is a great contest software, of that I have no doubts!

**DC4A:** Nice contest, interesting to hear years of emigration ...

**DD8IU:** very good contest, nice idea the travel to Ireland

**DH5ABC:** Only few QSOs...enough for last position in the contest ;-), but better than nothing...

**DJ5MW:** Thanks for the nice activity.

**DK6XZ:** Hello Guys! Sorry for too low activity - but I had my fun. Was not able to work 75s. Will stay at home, without ever having seen Ireland. Hi! Best regards.

**DK9CL:** I used SD logging software. It does a great job (but counted a qso with a EA-Station as multiplier!)

**DL1SWB:** This is my first IR Contest to working and I am happy

**DL6ATM:** Nice contest.

**DL9ZWG:** I enjoyed using SD by Paul, EI5DI.

**DM2FDO:** Hard job to find EI-Stations in QRM/poor conds!

**EA3NA:** This is a nice Contest for me I love Ireland. Sorry bad propagation on 20 meters and nothing on 10 and 15 I hope participate a new edition de 2008 year. Congratulations all operators EI.

**EI/W5GN:** Condx poor. CQWW RTTY stations down below xx25 and the EA Stations that refused QSOs were not pleasant.

**EI2II:** Nice contest, pity about the bands. I won't pack my bags just yet :)

**EI3ENB:** It certainly encouraged activity in hf for the day.

**EI3IO:** SD worked well as usual. Big problem on CW with EA stations working their national contest

**EI4CF:** Condx were very poor, except for 80m on Sat night.

**EI4GK:** I was sorry I was unable to spend more time on the bands.

**EI4GXB:** One of my first contests as newly licensed op, not great band condx, but enjoyed it immensely, SD Log – absolutely fantastic product and a dream to use. CQIR Great concept.

**EI5GPB:** Contest was great fun but SD difficult to use

**EI8IQ:** fabulous programme (SD)

**EI8JF:** Whilst not generally being a huge fan of competitions I am glad I decided to have a go and to push the boat out for this, after persuading my family I had no intention of doing this every other week-end! Shame then that HF propagation was pretty awful and only a few weak US stations were heard and worked on a very flat 20M during the Saturday afternoon. The expat county multipliers might have been flying fast and furious otherwise. Likewise the early Sunday morning antipodeal opening on 40M was scarcely the stuff of which legends are made and I only netted 1 VK and 1 ZL. Virtually no North American CW signals were in evidence on 40/80M CW during the night. On CW I felt that the competition effectively was over after midnight on Saturday and I hit my pit about 1AM. It was very hard going from dawn on Sunday onwards. It would have been nice to have been able to pick up even just a few more multipliers from EI/GIs on 80M CW, especially on the Sunday morning. Interesting amongst the 3 other CW (plus 1 RTTY) competitions running at the same time was the extremely busy and popular domestic Spanish one which meant I was mistaken for EA8JF several times! Overall I think the CQIR concept is very sound and should get an outing every 5 years otherwise I will be 81 years old if I have to wait 25 years for the IRTS centenary competition (near another sunspot minimum)! Likewise I think the January 80M contest should become a yearly event. I think the blanket ban on paper logs is onerous and should be relaxed to encourage more "semi serious and point giver" entrants. I only had a few days to get used to the computer logger due to a failure to read the "fine print" in the rules earlier! The logger did a few strange wobbles I could have done without, however no data got lost despite this and ESB kindly dropping supply for one second early on Sunday morning. Congrats to all involved on the hard to miss and very loud EI75IRTS CW & SSB contribution. SD was fine but my

computer threw a few windows wobbles running it!

**EI8JR:** SD was very easy to use recommended

**EI9HX:** Well what can i say about SD, but it's only the best. I really enjoyed myself even though the Bands we not too good, especially on the high frequency's. I think there was a good turn out World Wide, with almost all of the EI counties worked. Thank you very much for a very nice contest, even though I do not understand why 3-points are awarded for CW contacts, and only 2-points for SSB, as I have not seen any where in the Contest Rules, where the highest number of points gets any special recognition. Once more a big thank to the IRTS organisers. EI/SP7BUP This was my first in my life contest :) I hope don't make any mistake. Good log (SD)

**EJ9HQ:** Band conditions very bad in contest. Were OK on Friday night when on checking all was working. We should have every year - need more EI stations on. 51 ft mast fell down at 12.05 UTC I was lucky.

**F5LEN:** Discover this contest this year hi. A very pleasant one.

**G0MRH:** Band conditions didn't help.. Would have been nice to hear more stations on from Ireland. Thanks for the contest and here's to the next 75 years!

**G0VOK:** Great fun and everyone was very friendly. Propagation was poor until 80m improved but didn't reach the magic 75 QSO's. Enjoyed giving the 1987 Armagh multiplier away to everyone.

**G3GLL:** SD worked fine with WK2. HF band conditions vry poor here !

**G3LET:** Enjoyed, but expected a few more Irish participants. I guess others had the same idea about a supposedly clear date. Anyway, many thanks for organising it!

**G3VQO:** What a different idea for a contest!! Well done to whoever came up with the concept. What a shame that both conditions and activity levels failed to come up to expectations. It was extremely difficult finding other contest stations to work, but such fun being a "Cork" multiplier. I wonder who the oldest "Irishman" was. I worked an 1851 - was there anybody with an earlier date?

**G3WPF:** EI5DI programme worked fine. Conditions terrible.

**G3XUD:** Surprised so few IR stns expected to hear hundreds on 40m and 80m. My mother came to England from Tipperary in 1934 and so I sent 1934TIP for all QSOs. I was expecting the low bands to be buzzing with EI and GI stns but was rather disappointed on the weekend of the contest.

**G8MIA:** Band conditions were not very good. No contacts at all on 15m or 10m. Not many stations on 40m.

**GI4AAM:** SD worked superbly

**GI4NKB:** Conditions for the contest were keek :-)) and I'm sure this log contains a few busted qso's as a result. I'd like to see this contest become an annual event, why shouldn't Ireland have a contest? Long overdue! However it would probably be a good idea to move it to the weekend immediately before or after St Patrick's Day. SD performed excellently as usual.

**GI4SIZ:** HF bands very poor. First time using SD, easy to use made test a doddle.

**GI7OMY:** Log file attached (hardly worth it but it may help others – the conditions on Saturday were about the worst I can recall with 20m being totally dead).

**GM8OEG:** This entry is submitted in loving memory of "Grandma" Born: Fermoy, County Cork, September 1912. What a great contest and a real privilege to operate representing Cork, giving the multiplier.

**IZ2EZU:** Very nice contest, unfortunately there were other contests (CQ RTTY, TOEC, EA). I used EI5DI's SD for logging - great !

**K0RMK:** Many people claimed Irish ancestry but were not aware of the contest.

**K8LIZ:** Very poor conditions. Maybe next time???

**KD7ZIK:** My first attempt at a contest. Regrettably I was over-run by the Texas QSO Party. But I learned from the exercise and will be more prepared next year. This does include my first actual Europe contact. I will be more aggressive next year.

**KP4BT:** First time around. Hope to do better next time.

**KZ2I:** TERRIBLE cndx on Saturday. Hope you can get sponsorship to make this an annual event. I REALLY like giving out that ROS. Had a fun time. Even if conditions were lousy.

**LU4MHQ:** SD is the best support. Is my first CQIR, congratulations CU next year,

**LX/EI2JQ:** Unfortunately I had only a few hours time to operate. This 1 time event should be repeated every year. I did use SD for the first time especially for this event.

**LY2MM:** Sorry, could find only 1 EI stn. Activity from EI could be better...

**M0AAA:** Very hard going. The best part of the test was being called by VK2BJ and a couple of USA stations on 40M.

EI75IRTS called, just managed to copy with heavy QSB. Too many other contests on at the same time. I tried so hard to get 150, it was not to be. Lots of fun.

**M0KNG:** Just a small log but thought I would submit anyway. Enjoyed the contest very much.

**M0NBR:** please find enclosed my first attempt at a contest log.

**M0WLF:** Poor conditions but good fun.

**MU0FAL:** Extremely poor conditions and seems the Irish CW Activity was low. Still not sure which Irish Ancestors I could have chose.

**N7VPN:** I used SD contest software in this contest as with all contests that I operate in. I wish I could have worked more Irish stations but I did not hear any more. Hopefully next year propagation will be better.

**NS8O:** Loved the contest! Bad condx. Met lots of Irish in USA! Met some Irish in LZ, LU, G and others.

**OH2BSI:** Thanks for a nice contest, let's hope there will be more in future.

Not the best of conditions but enjoyable all the same.

**OK1NU:** Yes, I using SD log. Little activity from Ireland! The SD log is excellent, congrats to EI5DI.

**OK1TN:** Yes it is OK for this contest not exist another log. I hope I can use in another contest.

**OK2SWD:** Very good contest. See you again friends.

**OM3BA:** Very bad date for this contest, also very poor conds for european area, very sorry.

**PA0ATG:** Not so mni participants. A lot of other contests. Bad CONDX. CU next year.

**PA0MIR:** Very nice to meet so many Irish stations today; however it seems activity was quite low, judging from the QSO numbers. I also exchanged numbers for other contest, starting by 1 again but hope all serial exchanges will be OK.  
**PE1LTY:** Thank you for the contest. I enjoyed using SD.

**PE2KP:** It was a very nice contest. Only not the best condition this time. But it was fun to work all you EI stations.

**SP8BUP:** This was my first in my life contest. I hope I don't make any mistake

**SP9JZT:** fb contest. My other call is EI9JN. SD program is ok Tnx Paul EI5DI

**UA3LHL:** TNX for The contest.

**VE2DC:** Wish I had had more time... will try again next year.

**VK6NU:** Nice to hear some good signals from EI. Worked everyone I heard with good signals. 20 metres was very quiet and it was easy to work stations, if I could hear them I could work them. Only managed the first 4 hours but it was good fun giving out some multipliers

**W5YO:** The bands were DEAD DEAD DEAD in the states for CQIR ... very disappointing - but I did manage one contact: Texas to New Zealand ... but no Ireland !!! Maybe next year.

**WQ3X:** I really enjoyed the contest. Hopefully the word will get out and there will be more participation next year. There was some Texas QSO Party going on also this weekend. Some of them worked me and we did kind of a dual exchange where they gave me their serial number for CQIR along with signal report and Texas county for their contest. I gave them the 1888 WAT exchange along with signal report and my state of PA which is what they needed. It was very nice that the two contests can co-exist like that! Thanks for putting this on. My wife is the Irish one but I felt very much at home.

**YL2PP:** Tnx for contest QSOs!

**YO2CJX:** My first CQIR contest. All the best for the IRTS members.

**YO4AAC:** Vy poor propagation for all bands !

**YO9BFM:** Nice contest. Some local problems (with antennas).

**ZL4E:** Fun contest, great to have an excuse to exercise our Irishness! Poor conditions. Pity so many contests competing. I decided to finish early due to earthquakes. SD was great.

**ZS6DXB:** Great contest! Keep it up IRTS!! Maybe another in the future? Bad band conditions into Europe on Sunday morning on 15m. Greetings to all AFRi75 operators from a South Africa.

Last but not least – special thanks to the CQIR sponsors:

Dargle Builders,(John & Monica Kinsella)  
 Kinnitty Castle (Con Ryan)  
 Height for Hire (Harry McArdle)  
 Civil Defence School.

Thanks also to everyone who helped with setting up and operating EI75IRTS.

Paul Martin EI2CA  
 Paul O'Kane EI5DI

## Overseas Irish in CQIR

ANT	1739	K3JLM	GAL	1886	G3WPF
ANT	1840	W9LWC	GAL	2007	EA8EQ
ANT	1968	5B4AFB			
ANT	1980	2E0JKD	KER	1953	W2MAT
ANT	2002	2W0DTR			
ANT	2006	M0TMW	KLK	1946	G4XEX
ARM	1822	KD7ZIK	KLK	1957	F5NYK
ARM	1911	ZL4E	KLK	1984	N2MO
ARM	1987	G0VOK	LEI	1902	K1VI
CAV	1915	N6GP	LIM	1803	NS8O
CAV	1989	VK6NU	LIM	1851	G3LET
			LIM	1870	G3GXQ
CLA	1910	VK3YXC			
CLA	1943	KC2QEA	LON	1860	N2ADE
COR	1793	VK2EL	LOU	1981	G3ZDF
COR	1874	G3VQO			
COR	1880	KA5WZY	MAY	1885	W3DZH
COR	1886	W8ASA			
COR	1894	WV2ZOW	MEA	1950	VE3AO
COR	1895	KW4CQ	MEA	2007	DP5A
COR	1910	N0QO			
COR	1910	W1JUS	MON	1855	VE3SV
COR	1917	GM8OEG			
COR	1943	M1MIN	ROS	1850	W6KH
			ROS	1888	KZ2I
DER	1836	K1TH	ROS	1903	W1HI
DER	1980	VE3VEU	ROS	1950	WB2RLH
DON	1997	DF8HS	SLI	1840	N1BCL
DOW	1987	CT3FT			
			TIP	1746	AA8LL
DUB	1799	VE3OSZ	TIP	1746	K0RMK
DUB	1890	G6AUS	TIP	1746	K8LIZ
DUB	1897	2E0TLB	TIP	1855	W5YO
DUB	1898	GW3NJW	TIP	1929	W7DFO
DUB	1919	VE3VA	TIP	1934	G3XUD
DUB	1957	VE2DC			
DUB	1976	LX/EI2JQ	TYR	1775	AK1Q
DUB	1992	SM7/OZ4PAT	TYR	1917	KD5GHP
FER	1865	KD5SRW	WAT	1847	G4KRN
FER	1984	DL3KF	WAT	1851	K0RW
FER	2000	2E0CTT	WAT	1888	WQ3X
GAL	1848	ON9CSV	WEX	2007	G6INU
GAL	1855	KD7X			

### 70 MHz in the Czech Republic

It is reported on [www.70mhz.org](http://www.70mhz.org) that the authorities in the Czech Republic have announced that they are soon to issue twenty special permits for the band 70.2 to 70.3 MHz with 10 watts ERP on all modes.

The permits will be valid initially until the 31st of December 2008. It is interesting to note that the Czech Republic was among the countries supporting the ComReg proposal about 70 MHz at the recent meeting of the CEPT Frequency Management Working Group.

## North Dublin Radio Club AGM



**Mike Wright EI2DJ** (on right) receives the NDR Club Award from Club Chairman **Tony EI6EQB**, at the recent NDR AGM 2008



Some of the club members who attended The North Dublin Radio Club AGM in February 2008.

From left, Jim EI4GZ, Eddie EI5IC, Mark EI4FNB, Tony EI5EM, Andy EI4ERB, Dermot EI4ESB, Mike EI2DJ and Tony EI6EQB

At the recently held North Dublin Radio Club AGM, the Club Trophy was awarded to Mike Wright EI2DJ for his outstanding contribution to amateur radio and particularly for his work on repeaters.

This trophy was designed by Ray, EI7AHB, and donated to the Club in the early 1990s to be awarded annually for worthy contributions to the Club or to amateur radio in general.

The trophy, in the shape of a triangle, is inscribed with the formula for Ohm's Law.

Many of us who use repeaters regularly do not realise the amount of work that goes into setting them up and maintaining them. In addition to the voluntary work, there are also costs involved. As we all know, money does not grow on trees. So the next time that you are using your local repeater, consider contributing to the group that maintains it, if you haven't already done so.

Congratulations to Mike on his well-deserved award.

## AWARDS

### Region 1 IARU Award

This award is offered by the Radio Society Of Great Britain and is available in 3 classes. It may be claimed by any licensed radio amateur eligible under the General Rules who can produce evidence of having contacted amateur radio stations in the required number of countries whose national societies are members of the Region 1 Division of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU).

**The 3 classes are for contacts as follows:**

Class 1 All member countries on the current list

Class 2 60 member countries

Class 3 40 member countries

### Members of IARU Region 1: (Total 89)

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faeroes, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Georgia, Ghana, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tadjikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

A special version of this award is available, in the same 3 classes, for confirmed contacts on the 28 MHz band since 1 July 1983.

Submit a list of countries in alphabetical order with the call-sign and date of contact.

An application form is available on request from the HF Manager via [hf.awards@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:hf.awards@rsgb.org.uk)

Fee for each award is £3, 9 IRCs or US \$6.

Applications for this award can be checked and certified by the IRTS Awards Manager.



## Incoming QSL Cards

All cards coming to the IRTS Bureau from overseas firstly arrive at P.O. Box 462 and from there they are collected by Mike McNamara EI2CL who takes them home to be sorted into ten bundles by callsign number.

These are then picked up by Incoming Bureau Manager Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX who brings them to the regular IRTS Committee meetings where they are distributed to the various sub-managers.

Our sub-managers sort them into individual callsigns and mail them to members.

The system generally works well.

### Non-Members

One of the problems is the number of cards received for non members of the Society.

Just imagine all the work and costs incurred, not to mind the disappointment of the sender who does not get a return card, in processing these cards through the bureau of origin and the IRTS bureau.

Please pass the message to non-members that the least they could do is put a note on QRZ.com that they do not deal with bureau cards.

They should also make this very clear during their QSOs.

This of course also applies to members who do not want QSL cards.

### Special Event Callsigns

Another problem is the number of special event calls that are aired.

Unfortunately, the Society is not notified by ComReg of these calls and the responsibility rests with the licence holder to notify the society of the call and its QSL manager.

How can EI2CL do the first sort into numbers if he does not know the QSL route?

This is a big problem and lots of special event stations never get cards from the bureau because the sub-manager has no idea who to send them to.

The Society does not charge for processing cards for special event stations providing a member is involved.

Of course it goes without saying that all special event callsigns should be notified to IRTS at [mem312@irts.ie](mailto:mem312@irts.ie) and also to [www.QRZ.com](http://www.QRZ.com).

This will facilitate the many operators abroad and at home that want to QSL direct.

## IOTA Contest 2007 - EI Results

Position in category	Call Sign	IOTA Ref	Location	QSOs	Mults	Score
<b>IOTA DXpedition, Multi-Operator, Mixed Mode, 24 Hour, High Power</b> (IOTA DXPN MS MIX 24H HP)						
10	EJ0GI	EU006	Inis Oirr	2,048	317	4,055,064
<b>IOTA Fixed, Multi-Operator, Mixed Mode, 24 Hour, High Power</b> (IOTA FIX MS MIX 24H HP)						
9	EI7M	EU115	Ireland	1,971	297	3,331,449
11	EI0W	EU115	Ireland	1,852	268	2,688,576
14	EI9E	EU115	Ireland	1,466	244	2,197,464
<b>IOTA DXpedition, Single-Operator Unassisted, Mixed Mode, 24 hr, Low Power</b> (IOTA DXPN SOU MIX 24H LP)						
3	EI9JQ	EU115	Ireland	788	161	884,856
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, Mixed Mode, 24 hour, High Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOU MIX 24H HP)						
3	EI3IO	EU115	Ireland	868	124	636,864
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, Mixed Mode, 12 hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOU MIX 12H LP)						
2	EI4CF	EU115	Ireland	628	101	336,936
3	EI5DI	EU115	Ireland	464	100	278,400
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, SSB, 24 hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOU SSB 24H LP)						
2	EI8GS	EU115	Ireland	970	94	446,124
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, SSB, 12 hour, High Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOU SSB 12H HP)						
9	EI4DJB	EU115	Ireland	119	45	45,225
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Unassisted, SSB, 12 hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOU SSB 12H LP)						
10	EI7CC	EU115	Ireland	179	60	89,100
43	EI2CL	EU115	Ireland	23	18	5,346
48	EI4GXB	EU115	Ireland	204	4	2,640
<b>IOTA Fixed, Single-Operator Assisted, CW, 12 hour, Low Power</b> (IOTA FIX SOA CW 12H LP)						
4	EI9ES	EU115	Ireland	50	18	6,804



## Contest Results

### By Brian EI8IU

#### VHF/UHF Field Day 2007

##### Open Section

	QSOs	Points
1. EI9E/P	705	541,443

**QTH** Wexford, (IO62om)

Ops: EI2FG, EI3JE, EI5ASB, G4CLA, G0HFX and LY2MM

##### Restricted Section

1. EI3Z/P	126	474,980
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**QTH** Roscommon, (IO53WI)

Ops: EI9HX, EI6HW, EI4CF, EI6IB, EI4AL

(Thanks to EI7IG whose log I used as a check log.)

2. EI7T/P	50	408,475
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**QTH** Kilkenny, (IO62JI).

Ops: EI2IT, EI3ENB

#### SSB Field Day (Restricted Section) 2007

1. EI3Z/P	396	103415
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**QTH** Ballinasloe

Ops: EI4CF, EI9HX, EI7GY, EI3FFB, EI6IB, EI3HA, EI1CS

#### 2 Meters Counties Contest (Autumn)

##### High Power Portable

	Call	QSOs	Counties	Points	QTH
1.	EI2SBC/P (EI8IU, EI6IB)	56	23	6,302	LD
2.	EI7GY/P	36	13	2,106	LS

##### Low Power Portable

1.	EI2GLB/P	50	21	5,145	LS
2.	EI4HX	39	17	3,553	CN
3.	EI3GSB/P	15	10	570	MH

##### High Power Fixed

1.	EI2JD	30	12	1,452	LH
2.	EI3JD	15	8	456	OY

##### (Outside EI)

1.	GI4SRQ	26	13	1,365	AH
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##### Low Power Fixed

1.	EI9O	15	11	748	LD
2.	EI4GXB	16	7	546	CE
3.	EI3GYB	11	5	225	MO
4.	EI3ENB	13	5	165	KK

##### FM Only

1.	EI3FFB	18	13	696	TY
2.	EI6IW/P	18	11	657	TY

#### 80 Metres Counties Contest

The IRTS 80 metres counties contest, held on New Year's Day, was well supported in Ireland and overseas. The later start and finish time - designed to encourage more overseas participation - was generally welcomed by all participants.

Being a counties contest, the rarer counties were in great demand. All counties - with the possible exception of Kildare - were active for some part of the contest, although some counties, such as Sligo, Kerry and Cavan, appeared to have been activated only briefly. Most of the activity was on SSB, with only a few counties being heard on CW.

#### IRTS Contest Rule Changes

Contests entries for all IRTS sponsored contests should now be sent by email to [contests2008@irts.ie](mailto:contests2008@irts.ie). Please note the new email address.

Entries that have to be submitted by ordinary mail should be sent directly to the callbook address of the contest manager of the day.

Entries should not be sent to P.O. Box 462.

Thanks for your co-operation.

#### Field Days

Last year's field days were probably the most poorly supported for many many years. This despite the fact that it was never easier to mount portable stations with all the modern equipment now available.

All clubs and groups need a focus to survive and should always be either planning an activity or holding discussions on past activities.

Field days are well spaced throughout the year with the season starting on the first weekend in June when the IARU Region 1 CW Field Day is held.

A month later we have the VHF/UHF Field Day on the first full weekend in July and two months later the SSB Field Day is held on the first full weekend in September.

Other possible field activities to look at are the 2m Metre Counties Contests with the Spring event held on Easter Monday and the Autumn contest held on the last Sunday in August.

Another opportunity for portable VHF/UHF work in the MRG contest which this year will be held on the Sunday after the SSB Field Day on September 7th.

The IRTS 80m Counties Contest held around the New Year also provides an opportunity for clubs and individuals to get out and operate portable to activate some of the rarer counties. There is a real need for some of the more difficult to work counties in this contest.

It would be nice to see some new blood experiencing field day activity during the coming year.

## EI's on EQSL

(as at February 12th 2008)

DXCC Confirmed				Worked All States	
175	EI7BA (+5)	Approved	50	EI9FBB	Approved
156	EI3IO (+3)		50	EJ9FBB	Approved
146	EI4CF (+5)	Approved	50	EI9HQ (+1)	
140	EI7CC (new)		50	EJ9HQ (+1)	
134	EI2JD (+6)	Approved	48	EI4CF	
127	EI9FBB (+4)	Approved	45	EI6HB	
126	EJ9FBB (+12)	Approved	45	EI3IO	
115	EI6IZ	Approved	45	EI4IS	
97	EI6HB		43	EI8GP	
93	EI9HQ (+2)	Approved	42	EI7BA (+1)	
92	EJ9HQ (+4)	Approved	38	EI2JD (+2)	
89	EI8IU (+3)		37	EI5IF	
87	EI6AL (+1)	Approved	37	EI7JN	
85	EI5IF		32	EI7CC	
83	EI6JK (+5)		22	EI6JK (+2)	
81	EI3GYB (New)		17	EI0W	
80	EI8FH (+4)	Approved	1	EI7IW	
79	EI9FVB (+4)				
78	EI9ES	Approve			
69	EI7IX (+2)	Approved			
67	EI2II	Approved	39	EI7BA	
65	EI7M		38	EI9FBB	
65	EI8DL (+6)	Approved	37	EI3IO	
62	EI8GP		38	EI4CF (+1)	
61	EI4IS		33	EI7CC (+1)	
60	EI7JN		33	EI2JD (+1)	
59	EI8DD		31	EI5IF	
58	EI9JF		25	EI6JK (+1)	
57	EI/DH0GSU/p		22	EI7JN	
56	EI1DG		16	EI0W (+2)	
55	EI0CZ		6	EI7IW	
54	EI7IQ				
54	EI9JM				
54	EI4HH (+4)	Approved			
53	EI8JR (+2)		870	EI4CF (+98)	
51	EI4HQ (+10)		655	EI2JD (+42)	Approved
50	EI3HA (+2)		625	EI3IO (+54)	
50	EI6AK		589	EI9HQ (+54)	
50	EI6CPB (+1)	Approved	573	EI7CC (+55)	
48	EI0W (+1)		504	EI9FBB (+34)	Approved
47	EI7BFB (+2)		440	EI7BA (+36)	
46	EI7BMB		348	EI5IF (+54)	
44	EI6ARB	Approved	344	EI6JK (+95)	
44	EI8JK		327	EI9FVB (+28)	
43	EI7IM		240	EI0W (+23)	
41	EI3EBB		213	EI7JN	
39	EI6IF		193	EI9JM	
39	EI9CF		167	EI8IU	
34	EI3JB		166	EI8DL	
32	EI1KARG (+2)		40	EI7IW (+3)	
30	EI90GPO				
25	EI2FS				
25	EI7GM (+3)				
23	EI7IW (+2)				
20	EI0CPL				
20	EI2IV				

<http://www.eqsl.cc/eqslcard/eDX100Standings.cfm?SortOrder=C>

Report submitted by EI2JD

## EI DXCC Listings

(as at February 9th 2008)

Mixed				RTTY/Digital		No Entry
345	EI7CC			Satellite		No Entry
340	EI2GS					
339	EI8H			160m		
339	<b>EI6FR</b>	*		147	<b>EI3IO</b>	*
324	EI6S			80m		
315	EI3IO			106	<b>EI7BA</b>	New
306	EI2HY			104	EI4BZ	
270	EI2CR			40m		
262	EI2GX			118	<b>EI9FBB</b>	*
247	EI9FBB			112	EI7GL	
238	<b>EI7BA</b>	*		112	<b>EI7BA</b>	New
232	EI4BZ			109	EI2JD	
230	EI9JF			30m		
217	EI2JD			106	EI4BZ	
189	<b>EI8IU</b>	*		104	<b>EI7BA</b>	New
175	<b>EI6IZ</b>	*		20m		
151	EI5GM			205	EI9FBB	
128	EI8HA			153	<b>EI7BA</b>	New
120	EI6HB			150	EI4BZ	
114	EI9HQ			148	EI2JD	
				121	EI9JF	
				111	<b>EI8GS</b>	New
				110	EI3GV	
				100	EI9HQ	
				17m		
				124	<b>EI7BA</b>	*
				15m		
				164	EI4BZ	
				114	EI2JD	
				121	<b>EI7BA</b>	*
				109	<b>EI8GS</b>	New
				108	EI3GV	
				114	EI9FBB	
				12m		No entry
				10m		
				134	EI4BZ	
				128	EI4GK	
				124	EI2JD	
				113	EI7GL	
				104	<b>EI8GS</b>	New
				100	<b>EI7BA</b>	New
				6m		
				152	<b>EI3IO</b>	*
				104	EI7GL	
				101	EI3EBB	
				2m		No entry
				QRP DXCC		
				No Entry		
				DXCC Challenge		
				1357	EI7CC	
				1197	<b>EI3IO</b>	*
				DXCC Honor Roll		
				Mixed		
				345	EI7CC	
				340	EI2GS	
				334	EI6FR	
				Phone		
				344	<b>EI7CC</b>	*
				338	EI2GS	
				Updates are marked *		

# Squares Table 2007

Could everyone who supported the VHF/UHF squares table during the past year ... send in their final updates for 2007 to the VHF Manager [joe\\_fadden@yahoo.com](mailto:joe_fadden@yahoo.com) before the end of February. Some good square scores were achieved this year. If you have not sent in a score for any of the VHF/UHF bands during 2007, you can still do so. (See tables on page 28)

## I. R. T. S. 4 Metre & 6 Metre Shields

The 4 Metre & 6 Metre shields will be presented to the leading 4 & 6 Metre operators at this years I.R.T.S. AGM in Salthill.

This competition is run on a calendar year basis, 01/01/2007 - 31/12/2007.

The scoring will be calculated as follows:

**Unique contacts** x **Maidenhead locator squares** x **DXCC**. All modes count.

Anyone interested in this competition should send their 2007 logs to the Contest Manager, Brian Canning [brianei8iu@eircom.net](mailto:brianei8iu@eircom.net)

### Unique contacts:

If you make contact with a particular station say 5 times during the year, you can only claim this as 1 QSO.

**Squares mean** : IO51, JO63 KM78 etc.

**DXCC count** : Should need no explanation!

Hope everyone can and will send in a log.

Joe Fadden EI3IX  
IRTS VHF Manager

[www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie)

## Radio News Updates

The script for each Sunday's Radio news is uploaded on Monday to the News Archives section of the IRTS web site.

The oldest script in the archives is for Sunday 1st February 1998, so you can now browse the radio news scripts for the past 10 years on our web site.

If you want to see what radio experimenters in Ireland and overseas have been doing for the past decade, visit [www.irts.ie/news](http://www.irts.ie/news) to see the IRTS News Bulletin Archives

## VHF/UHF/SHF Information

The VHF/UHF section of the IRTS web site - now renamed "VHF/UHF/SHF Information" - has been updated in recent days.

The addition of SHF (Super High Frequency) to the name is in anticipation of more activity in the centimetre band during 2008.

The Squares Table for 2008 now includes a column for 10 GHz, and will no doubt be watched with interest.

The VHF/UHF/SHF section of the web site is designed to facilitate and encourage activity on the bands above 30 MHz.

It includes links to sites dedicated to 4 metres and 6 metres operation, beacon lists, updates on VHF DXpeditions, tropospheric forecasts and DX records.

The site also includes information on regular EI VHF activity. Click on the "VHF/UHF/SHF" link on [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie)

# The MRG VHF/UHF SSB Challenge 2007 Results

## Fixed section:

Place	Station	Locator	144MHz QSOs	432MHz QSOs	Score
1	EI5FK	IO51rt	26	6	11,786 pts
2	EI3GYB	IO53ot	4	2	748 pts

## Portable section:

1	EI2GLB/P	IO63ec	13	7	3209 pts
2	EI2MRG/P	IO53lu	12	2	3168 pts
3	EI7T/P	IO62jh	10	3	2346 pts

## Check logs received:

1	EI3GP	IO63gg	6	1	0 pts
---	-------	--------	---	---	-------

## Best distance worked:

144Mhz - EI5FK (IO51rt) - EA2TO/1 (IN83fe) for a distance of 1,029Km.

432Mhz - EI5FK (IO51rt) - MW1MFY (IO81fl) for a distance of 347Km.

Trophies will be presented to the winners of each category.

The MRG Group wishes to thank all those who part in the 2007 event.

The **MRG VHF/UHF Challenge 2008** will take place on Sept 7th.

## Foyle & District Amateur Radio Club



Foyle & District Amateur Radio Club have launched a new website at [www.mn0aku.org](http://www.mn0aku.org)

Their annual special event station for St Patrick's Day GB5SPD will be active from the club house on the 15th March until 17th March.

The club will hold their annual rally on Sunday the 2nd November 2008 at The White Horse Hotel Campsie, Londonderry, BT47 3PA



AMSAT-UK

## AMSAT Groups Support ZEL Funding

Earlier this year the Directors of AMSAT-DL were informed by the University of Marburg in Germany that it had been decided that funding for the ZEL by the University would cease at the end of 2007.

The Directors approached AMSAT-NA and AMSAT-UK for financial assistance in keeping the ZEL open for another year. The sum of 25,000 Euros was requested.

At recent meetings of the AMSAT-NA Board and of the AMSAT-UK Committee, it was agreed that both would contribute to the donation.

Given the relative sizes of the two donating AMSAT groups it was agreed that AMSAT-NA would donate 75% of the money required, and that AMSAT-UK would donate 25%.

The ZEL (Zentrales Entwicklungslabor für electronic, roughly translated as the Central Development Laboratory for Electronics) has been the facility which, over the last 40 years, has been at the centre of much amateur satellite development activity by members of the University, members of AMSAT-DL, as well as other members of AMSAT from outside Germany.

The most famous satellite to be produced there was OSCAR-13 which gave the Amateur Radio Community many years of excellent service.

Currently under construction is Phase 3E, a satellite similar in size and shape to OSCAR-13, but with many advanced features. It will carry a 70 cms to 2 metre band transponder, as well as transponders on other bands. Importantly it will carry its own rocket motor which will boost its orbit into a highly elliptical one, which will give world wide coverage, allowing ordinary radio amateurs great DX possibilities through the transponders.

Radio Amateurs have not had such a satellite since the demise of AO-40 in March 2004.

The P3E satellite is still under construction in the ZEL, and its completion is anticipated for sometime in 2008. It is note worthy that some of the personnel employed by the University to work in the ZEL have undertaken to continue working on P3E as volunteers.

Pictures of the ZEL can be seen at  
[http://www.uk.amsat.org/gallery2/main.php?g2\\_itemId=32](http://www.uk.amsat.org/gallery2/main.php?g2_itemId=32)

**AMSAT-UK**  
publish a quarterly newsletter full of Amateur Satellite information.

Join now online at <https://secure.amsat.org.uk/subscription/>

For further details contact the secretary

**Jim Heck G3WGM**  
Tel: +44 (0)1258 453959  
Email: [g3wgm@amsat.org](mailto:g3wgm@amsat.org)

Website: <http://www.uk.amsat.org/>



Picture shows representatives of AMSAT-NA, AMSAT-DL and AMSAT-UK at the ZEL with the P3E satellite

Left to right:

Rick Hambly W2GPS - President AMSAT-NA,  
Peter Guelzow, DB2OS - President AMSAT-DL  
Jim Heck G3WGM - Secretary AMSAT-UK

## CQ Announces Expansion of WPX Award Program Digital Modes Added Along with New Bands

(Hicksville, NY, Feb. 14, 2008)

CQ magazine and WPX Awards Manager Steve Bolia, N8BJQ, have announced several changes to the WPX Award program in response to feedback from program participants.

The changes, effective immediately, add new bands and create a new Digital WPX Award.

### All Band Credit

Under the new rules, contacts on all bands between 160 and 6 meters will count for WPX award credit.

In addition, new band endorsements will now be available for 5 MHz, 10 MHz, 18 MHz, 24 MHz and 50 MHz contacts.

### Digital WPX Award

A separate Digital WPX Award has also been added, for contacts made on RTTY, PSK and other keyboard modes, with 300 confirmed prefixes required for the basic level of the award.

Digital-mode contacts will also count toward the existing Mixed award, as will those prefixes worked on the newly added bands.

Details on these and other changes will be published in the March 2008 issue of CQ magazine and are posted along with the March issue highlights on the CQ magazine website at  
< <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com> >.

The WPX Award Program recognizes amateurs for making confirmed contacts with the many callsign prefixes used by radio amateurs around the world. Top achievers are eligible for the WPX Honor Roll and the WPX Award of Excellence.

General information and complete rules are available on the CQ website at  
< <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awards.html> >.

CQ magazine sponsors a variety of operating awards and on-air competitions to encourage amateur radio operators to sharpen their operating skills and to recognize those reaching high levels of achievement.

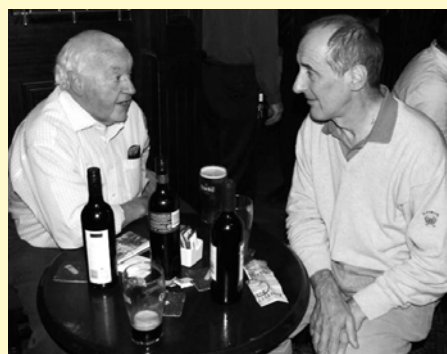
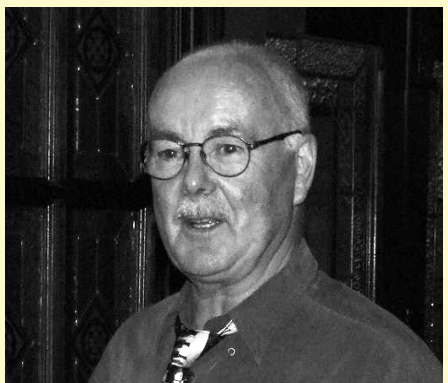
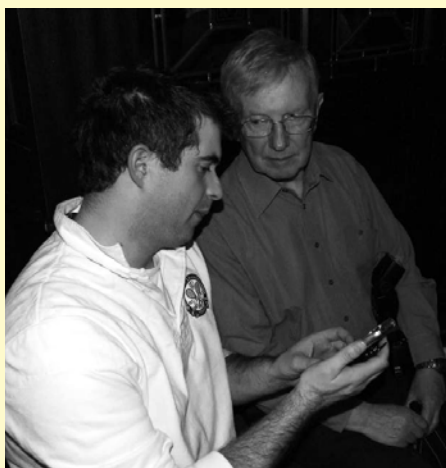
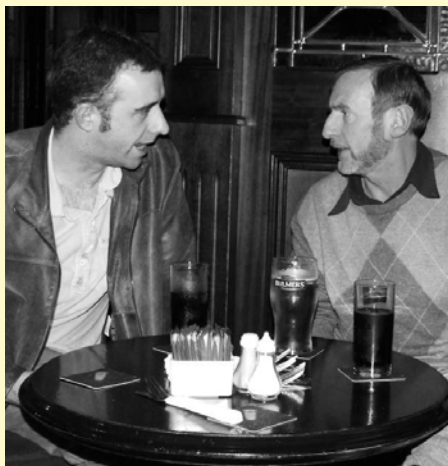
## South Dublin Radio Club Christmas Party

The SDR Christmas Party was held in the Morgue Pub, Templeogue, Co. Dublin on December 11th 2007.

There was a huge attendance including four members from the North of Ireland and many other very welcome guests.

Tom Mc Grath EI7HT presented the annual contest prizes and a bumper raffle was held. Prizes were €100.00, €50.00, €40.00 and a large variety of bottles etc.

*Pictures by Derek Peyton EI7FM*





**Irish Radio Transmitters Society**

# **Annual General Meeting Weekend**

*Hosted by Galway Radio Experimenters Club*

**April 26th/27th**

at

**The Salthill Hotel**

**Salthill, Galway**

**Saturday Night Dinner**

**Tickets €35.00**

**Sunday Rally**

**Doors open for traders at 0900      Doors open to public at 1100**

**All the usual traders will attend**

**IRTS AGM**

**Sunday afternoon**

**at 1430**

**To book Dinner Tickets or tables for the rally contact:**

**Tom Frawley EI3ER on 086-8224170**

**Damian Commins EI2HG 086 8316382**

**\*\*\**Hotel accommodation special rate*\*\*\***

***€75.00 pps or €85.00 single***

***Hotel Telephone 091-522711/522448***

## Live Video from U.S. Hamfests <http://w5kub.com>

Many of you may already know about this site and have taken part in the fun activities. This is an amateur radio web site which transmits live video and audio of hamfests around the country. It is on 24 x 7, 365 days each year. When we are not broadcasting live ham radio events, we are running some recorded videos of previous hamfests.

In addition to the live video and audio, we have a chat room on the web page where everyone can log in with your call and chat with each other.

We have viewers in over 150 countries. In addition to seeing the hamfests, you can actually watch us broadcast live our convoy to the hamvention. You will be able to ride with us as we drive the 550 miles to Dayton.

And while at the hamfests, we have the famous helmet cam that we wear as we walk around the flea market and inside dealers. Its a lot of fun and if you cant make it in person, you can attend virtually.

The site is <http://w5kub.com>  
73s, Tom W5KUB

## Squares Table 2007

Callsign	50 MHz	70 MHz	144 MHz	432 MHz	1296 MHz	Total
EI5FK	434	3	124	23	0	584
EI2IP	249	18	75	23	0	365
EI3IO	152	28	0	0	0	180
EI2JD	161	1	12	1	0	175
EI3GYB	113	0	14	2	0	129
EI7IX	111	18	0	0	0	129
EI3GRB	114	0	0	0	0	114
EI2GLB	67	0	19	6	0	92
EI7FAB	44	2	3	3	2	54
EI8JK	25	0	13	2	0	40
EI3IX	26	1	4	2	1	34
EI9FVB	30	0	0	0	0	30
EI8IQ	0	0	22	0	0	22
EI7IQ	12	0	0	0	0	12
EI7IG	0	0	2	4	0	6
EI4GHB	0	1	1	1	2	5

## Squares Table 2008

Callsign	50 MHz	70 MHz	144 MHz	432 MHz	1296 MHz	10GHz	Total
EI2IP	25	0	14	0	0	0	39
EI7FAB	1	0	7	1	2	0	11
EI3IX	0	0	2	1	2	0	5
EI4GHB	0	0	1	0	2	0	3

This tables show the number of Maidenhead locator squares (e.g. IO63, IN88) worked by EI operators.

Contacts via repeaters or satellites do not count, and QSLs are not required

Updates to VHF Manager - [joe\\_fadden@yahoo.com](mailto:joe_fadden@yahoo.com)

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

# The Shop



## 10% discount for IRTS members

As an extra benefit of membership, IRTS has entered into a special arrangement with the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) for IRTS members to get discounted Amateur Radio Books. This dedicated service is based online so is available to you 24 hours a day. The books are delivered by standard post direct to your door and attract a 10% discount for IRTS Members (Some exceptions apply).

The range is wide with titles being stocked from RSGB, ARRL, DARC and many others.

Try it today

**[www.irtsshop.com](http://www.irtsshop.com)**

## **Limerick Radio Club - Annual General Meeting**

The 2007 Annual General Meeting of Limerick Radio Club took place at the Limerick Institute of Technology on Thursday the 14th of February. It was nice to see such a good turnout of members on the night.

The Chairman Dermot Gleeson EI2GT welcomed all those present and outlined the Club's activities during the past year:

Eight club meetings were held in Limerick Institute of Technology and a number of lectures were given by members on various topics. These included; Aviation and Spectrum by Tom O'Sullivan EI3AL at the October meeting and Radio Astronomy by Simon Kenny EI7ALB at the November meeting.

Seven committee meetings were held. Seven maintenance visits were made to the 2-metre repeater site at Tountinna for essential repair work including the replacement of the 2-metre antenna and pole.

The following Officers and Committee were elected;

Chairman	Dermot Gleeson EI2GT, Hon Secretary
	Michael Kingston EI2IX Hon Treasurer
	Tony Condon EI2AW.

Committee members are as follows;

Alan Cronin EI8EM, John O'Brien, John Edgeworth EI6IW and Simon Kenny EI7ALB.

The Trustees are; Albert Lahoud EI9IY, Alan Cronin EI8EM and Michael Kingston EI2IX.

### **Review of the past year:**

The Limerick Radio Clubs Radio, Electronics and Hobbies Exhibition took place in March at the Greenhills Hotel. ICOM UK and the usual Irish traders took part.

The Club participated in the 70th year celebrations at the Foyes Flying Boat Museum, commemorating the first commercial transatlantic flying boat flight from Botwood, Newfoundland to Foynes in 1937. A special event station was set up using the call-sign EI70FOY.

The Club participated in the International Lighthouse Weekend from Tarbert Lighthouse using the special call sign EI4TLH.

IRLP Hardware and Software has been acquired and it is hoped that the arrangements for the connection to the Internet will be finalized shortly.

The Club is awaiting final confirmation from ComReg of the new call sign to be used on the repeater at Tountinna.

Through the good offices of Alan EI8EM a Kenwood TS940S transceiver was gifted to the club by Greg Nitkowski N2BSA. Limerick Radio Club expresses sincere thanks to Greg for this very generous offer.

Many thanks also to Simon EI7ALB for all the time and effort he put into refurbishing the transceiver

## **Irish Radio Experimenter Receives Ande De-orbit Award**

Along with many other international participants, John EI7IG recently received his certificate for gathering telemetry from the ANDE satellite before it re-entered the atmosphere.

Recently Henk PA3GUO and Mike DK3WN sponsored an ANDE award to encourage reception of telemetry during the last few weeks of life of the Amateur Radio satellite ANDE.

ANDE was built by students from the US Naval Academy and deployed from the Space Shuttle (STS-116) on a return mission from the International Space Station (ISS) on 21 December 2006.

Due to its low orbit it had a short lifetime and re-entered the earth's atmosphere just over a year later on the 25th of December 2007.

## **500 kHz Experiments at EI0MAR**

From July 1908, the 500 Kilocycle frequency commenced operation as the recognised international CW marine calling and distress frequency.

In the UK and Ireland this service ceased in 1997 due to advances in telecommunications technology.

However, in the past few years, special permits were issued in Britain to radio amateurs for experimental purposes using frequencies in the range 501 to 504 kilocycles.

Ray, GI3PDN is the holder of one such license and a few weeks ago he contacted Tony (EI5EM) to see if a crossband QSO could be arranged with EI0MAR at the Martello Tower in Howth.

A sked was arranged with EI0MAR operating on 3550 kilocycles and Ray operating on 501.5 kilocycles.

A successful two-way QSO was completed with 559 reports both ways.

Ray was using a home-brew transmitter running less than one watt into a 300 foot long inverted Vee antenna. No such antenna was available at Howth where a 40-meter dipole tuned for 80 metres was used for transmit and receive.

The rig used at EI0MAR was a Yaesu FT-747 running about 70 Watts.

A second successful crossband QSO then took place with Finbar GI4PDE (also EI0CF) in Derry but the report on 501.5 kilocycles was not as good as 339.

Tony, in arranging these QSOs approached it more in hope than in expectation and was pleasantly surprised and very satisfied with this successful wireless telegraphy experiment.

A big thanks to Ray and Finbar for two very memorable QSOs.

EI0MAR is located in the Vintage Radio Museum in Howth and is QRV most Sundays.

Further information is available on the web or by email from "ei0mar at eircom dot net".

A booklet about the museum and its history along with the history of wireless is available for free download at [ei5em.110mb.com/museum.html](http://ei5em.110mb.com/museum.html).

# Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

## March 2008

1-2	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	ARRL International DX Contest	SSB
2	Sun 1100 - 1700	DARC 10 m Digital Contest "Corona"	Digi
4	Tue 1900 - 2100	AGCW YL CW Party	CW
8-9	Sat 1000 - Sun 1000	RSGB Commonwealth Contest	CW
8	Sat 1200 - 1700	DIG QSO Party (10 - 20 m)	SSB
8	Sat 1400 - 2000	AGCW QRP Contest	CW
8-9	Sat 1900 - Sun 1900	Idaho QSO Party	All
9	Sun 0000 - 0400	North American Sprint Contest	RTTY
9	Sun 0000 - 2359	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW
9-10	Sun 1800 - Mon 0100	Wisconsin QSO Party	CW/SSB
15	Sat 0001 - 2359	10-10 International Mobile QSO Party	All?
15-16	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	DARC HF-SSTV Contest	SSTV
15-16	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Russian DX Contest	CW/SSB
15-17	Sat 1800 - Mon 0200	Virginia QSO Party	All
16	Sun 0700 - 1100	UBA Spring Contest 6 m	CW/SSB
19	Wed 1900 - 2100	MOON Contest	CW/Digi/SSB
20	Thu 0030 - 0230	NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	CW
22-24	Sat 0200 - Mon 0200	BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	RTTY
24	<b>Mon 1400 - 1600 (local)</b>	<b>IRTS 2m Counties Contest</b>	<b>CW/SSB/FM</b>
29-30	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW WPX Contest	SSB
29-30	Sat 1800 - Sun 1800	QCWA QSO Party	All

## April 2008

5-6	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	SP DX Contest	CW/SSB
5-6	Sat 1600 - Sun 1600	EA RTTY Contest	RTTY
5-6	Sat 1800 - Sun 0500	Missouri QSO Party (1)	CW/SSB
6	Sun 1800 - 2400	Missouri QSO Party (2)	CW/SSB
12-13	Sat 0700 - Sun 1300	Japan International DX Contest	CW
12	Sat 1600 - 1959	EU Sprint Spring	CW
12-13	Sat 2100 - Sun 2100	Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	CW
19	Sat 0000 - 2359	Holyland DX Contest	CW/SSB/Digi
19	Sat 0500 - 0859	ES Open HF Championship	CW/SSB
19	Sat 1600 - 1959	EU Sprint Spring	SSB
26-27	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	SP DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
26-27	Sat 1300 - Sun 1259	Helvetia Contest	CW/SSB/Digi
28-2	Mon 0001 - Fri 2359	EUCW/FISTS QRS Party	CW

## May 2008

28-2	Mon 0001 - Fri 2359	EUCW/FISTS QRS Party	CW
3-4	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	*? Day of the Portuguese Navy	CW/SSB
3	Sat 1500 - 2100	*? Day of the Portuguese Navy	PSK31
3-4	Sat 1600 - Sun 0400	Indiana QSO Party	CW/Phone
3-4	Sat 2000 - Sun 1959	ARI Int. DX Contest	CW/SSB/RTTY
3-4	Sat 2000 - Sun 0500	New England QSO Party (1)	All
4	Sun 1300 - 2400	New England QSO Party (2)	All
10-11	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	A. Volta RTTY DX Contest	RTTY
10-11	Sat 1200 - Sun 1159	CQ-M Int. DX Contest	CW/SSB
10	Sat 1700 - 2100	FISTS Spring Sprint	CW
17-18	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	MARAC SSB QSO Party	SSB
17-18	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	*? EU PSK DX Contest	PSK31
17-18	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	H. M. The King of Spain Contest	CW
17-18	Sat 2100 - Sun 0200	Baltic Contest	CW/SSB
24-25	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW WPX Contest	CW

For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

SM3CER Contest Service <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

## Theory Classes

Theory Classes are continuing at South Dublin Radio Club and also Cara Amateur Radio Society.

Classes at SDR take place each Tuesday from 8 to 10 p.m. while classes at Cara take place on Wednesdays from 8.30 to 10.30 p.m.

For more information contact Michael EI2GKB.

## CEPT and U.S. Licences

### European Reciprocal Licenses Now Limited to Advanced and Extra Class Licensees:

The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has revised its table of equivalence between FCC amateur licenses and the CEPT license.

Effective February 4, 2008, Recommendation T/R 61-01 (as amended) now grants full CEPT privileges only to those US citizens who hold an FCC-issued Amateur Extra or Advanced class license.

This means that those US licensees who hold an FCC-issued General or Technician license are no longer eligible for full operating privileges in countries where CEPT-reciprocal operation had previously been permitted.

US Novice class licensees have had no reciprocal operating privileges under the CEPT provisions.

These changes are the result of a re-evaluation of US and CEPT license classes equivalence by the CEPT's Radio Regulatory Working Group at its meeting January 29-February 1, 2008 in Basel, Switzerland.

The Working Group deals with numerous areas of concern including Amateur Radio and is responsible for applications from countries to participate in T/R 61-01, as well as other Amateur Radio related issues.

"Changes in the US license structures and examinations often have ancillary implications beyond the immediate impact upon the US licensees," said Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager.

"While this CEPT change affects several classes of US licensees when they visit Europe and other CEPT signatory countries, it has no effect on their operating privileges at home."

**"Extract from ARRL Letter Vol 27 No 5 Friday 8 February 2008"**

## 70 MHz Initiative

As a result of the ongoing co-operation between IRTS and CmReg Ireland submitted a proposal to CEPT's Frequency Management Working Group, WGFM, concerning the possibility of a secondary allocation to the amateur service in the band 70.0 - 70.5 MHz in Europe's Table of Frequency Allocations, the ECA.

Following on an earlier document submitted in July last, a document drafted by Dave EI3IO was submitted by IRTS to ComReg soon after the close of WRC-07 last year.

ComReg acted on this and submitted a formal proposal to the WGFM. The prime goal for doing this was to secure regulatory recognition for the frequency allocation at 70 MHz, which appeared to be a requirement before some countries would release the band to the amateur service.

Ten supporting Administrations were needed to automatically write a new allocation into the ECA. Unfortunately the proposal was supported by only six Administrations Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, with six other countries actively opposing it.

It will be obvious that some countries whose amateurs are active on the band did not support the Irish proposal for one reason or another.

This was despite strenuous efforts by the IRTS, the RSGB's VHF Manager G4ASR and IARU to contact all member societies, in order that they would be in a position to discuss the Irish proposal with their national delegates prior to the CEPT meeting.

The good news is that as there was some limited support, Ireland can propose a note to be included in the ECA which reports that a number of CEPT countries are now allocating this band on a national basis to the amateur service.

It is understood that ComReg will shortly be submitting an appropriate note for inclusion in the ECA.

It is therefore hoped that this will be sufficient for those countries which need some regulatory ammunition to obtain a 4 metre allocation.

Furthermore, the note may also provide an opening for another proposal or request from the IARU to CEPT for a 70 MHz allocation at some point in the future, hopefully with more support.

And of course more good news is that

SDR members have been treated to a number of presentations in recent weeks, starting with a talk by Sean Nolan EI7CD, who spoke about the outcome of discussions with ComReg on various matters of interest to radio experimenters, including the question of allocations on the 5 Mhz and 70 MHz bands.

Paul O'Kane EI5DI gave a talk on the 3B7C DXpedition to the Saint Brandon Rocks, which are in the Indian Ocean northeast of Mauritius.

Paul, who is a well-known contester, was the only EI member of this DXpedition, and his presentation highlighted the enormous organisational and logistical effort that is required to mount a major DXpedition.

The Microlite Penguins DXpedition Team, who activated Raoul Island, in the Kermadecs group, about 1000 km north of New Zealand, take a different approach, as Declan EI6FR, who participated in this activation, explained to SDR members.

The Microlite group work generally without amplifiers or beams; they operated on Raoul Island using Icom IC-7000 transceivers driving wire dipoles strung up in nearby pine trees.

With this simple equipment, they achieved over 40,000 QSOs in 8 days during October 2006.

### South Dublin Radio Club's Autumn Challenge

At the South Dublin Radio Club's Christmas Party, Nicki Mullally EI9JF was announced as the winner of this year's club Autumn Challenge - the challenge involves working as much DX as possible during the month of November.

we might also see Switzerland and maybe Liechtenstein and 4U1TU on the band before too long.

I'm sure everyone in Ireland and elsewhere would like to give recognition and appreciation to Samuel Ritchie of ComReg, for his excellent efforts in respect of amateur access to 70 MHz as well as to Dave EI3IO for his personal input in drafting all of the initial technical documentation.

## South Dublin Radio Club



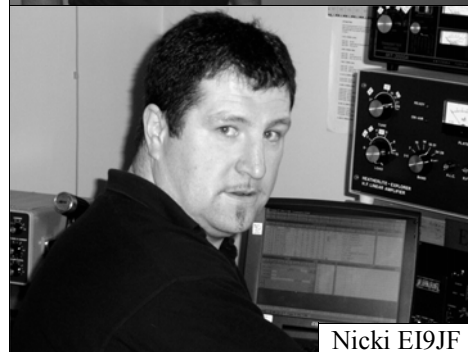
Sean EI7CD



Paul EI5DI



Declan EI6FR



Nicki EI9JF

### Emergency Communications

The next IARU EmComm Party on the Air is scheduled for the 3rd of May between 1800 and 2200 hours UTC, this should enable more stations from Region 2 to participate as well as providing a greater challenge to the rest of the world since emergencies can happen at any time.

The details of the exercise (to be called a Simulated Emergency Test or SET) are being finalised.



IRTS President Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS making a presentation on behalf of the Society to incoming RSGB President Colin Thomas G3PSM

## Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club Annual Rally The Share Centre, Lisnaskea County Fermanagh Sunday 13th April 2008

Bring & Buy, Caravan Park, access from Lough Erne/  
Shannon Waterway  
Food and parking on site  
Other facilities may be available by prior arrangement with  
The Share Centre.  
Doors open 12.00 noon

Further details from Alan Gault, G16PYP  
07771 811484/028 66341108,  
email [alangault746@btinternet.com](mailto:alangault746@btinternet.com)  
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## HG1848I

To commemorate 160th Anniversary of The 1848-49 Hungarian Revolution, HA3HK station will operate with HG1848I special callsign from February 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.

A beautiful colourful laminated award will be available to licensed amateurs and SWLs who contact/copy 3 QSOs with HG1848I on different bands or different modes. 2 QSOs necessary for DX stations.

Send your log extract + the fee of 5 EURO or 5 IRC or 7 USD to HA3HK.

## Bangor and District ARS Radio and Computer Rally

Bangor and District ARS are holding their Summer "Radio and Computer Rally" on Sunday 15th June 2008.

A good selection of traders will be attending and the always excellent bring and buy will in operation.

It will be located at the Crawfordsburn Country Club.  
Doors open at 12noon, admission is FREE.

Further details from club website [www.bdars.com](http://www.bdars.com)  
or contact Bill G14AAM Telephone (028) 9181 6707  
Email : [bill.langtry@btinternet.com](mailto:bill.langtry@btinternet.com)



Mike Lee EI4HF pictured with Peter Casier ON6TT at the United Nations base in Dubai. Mike was attending a course at the "Field Emergency Support Office" Dubai which is organised by WFP (World Food Programme) FITTEST ( FITTEST a Fast Information Technology and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team.) Peter Casier ON6TT, a well known DXer, is head of the Technical Services Team.





## Members Advertisements

**For Sale:** Yaesu FT 847 plus FC20 ATU. Boxed and as new. Price ....€1,350.00. Telephone 061-397004

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MEL PRC-2000 military HF manpack transceiver with accessories, manual and full service manual. Clean and in Perfect working order. .... €1,199.00

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ei6iz.brendan@gmail.com or 086 2501832

### For Sale.

Drake TR7, PS 7, inc Sure 444D mic ..... €790.00  
AEA PK-88 Packet Controller (Boxed) with manual € 50.00  
Datong Speech Processor. ....Price €40.00  
Sure Mike Model no 201H/H. for Yaesu 101 E/902DM.  
Price € 15.00

Contact: Tony Magliocco Phone 086 2633311. or e-mail ei6dl@eircom.net

**Collector** has a number of straight Morse Keys for sale  
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Tokyo Hi power linear HL – 100B  
Tokyo HI Power transverter model HX-240 VHF to HF  
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**For Sale:** TH3, 3 element Yagi for 10/15/20m €150.00  
Mosley 4 element HF Yagi for 10/15/20m €200.00  
Yaesu FT847. As new, Box, manual, Mic. €1,000.00  
Contact Jeremy EI5M on 083-3317710



## Reading the Mail By Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #49 of "Reading the Mail", an account of IRTS incoming QSL Bureau activity from 1 October 2007 to 31 January 2008.

As has been the position some time now there has been a significant fall in incoming QSL numbers.

For the record, since my last report, small packets (less than 1 kg) came from ARA, ARM, BFRR, BV2KI, EDR, G3TXF, HA1CW, HB9TUD, HK3Q, IARC, IRA, JARL x2, LA2GN, the CE, RJ and RS divisions of LABRE, RCD, RCP, RL, RSGB, UY0ZG and URA.

Heavier lots came from ARRL, NNRL, ÖVSV, RAC, RSGB and SARL (2kg each), MRASZ, PZK, RX3RC, SRR, UARL and URE (3.9 kg each), and the usual heavyweight from DARC (9.7kg).

Cards from the following were thought worthy of mention:

A52PRO, B7K, EX15ID, EY0R, EY8/UA4CC, EZ8BP, HA1OORADIO, HA503DMF, HG1956R, HG1000PAX, HG2006GYR, HS0ZBS, R45G, SP0TPAX, SP0TPFK, SU9FL, TJ3G, V5/ZS4NS, YI9KT, YI9VCQ, ZA/SP5EAQ, 3XD2Z and 3XM6JR.

For IOTA chasers, notables were C56C, FO/N5XX, GJ6UW/P, GN3XRQ/P, GS0GRC/P, HF0QF, OY/G3TXF, P29XF, R1FJ, RZ0IWZ, TF4RRC, TF60IRA, VQ9JC, K9J/VY0, 3C5XA and 5H1BP. Congratulations to all recipients.

Until my next report, all best wishes and lots of nice DX.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL

## Church Island Radio Rally

**Friday 4th April 2008**

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